



The Resonator

Official Newsletter of The Fair Lawn (NJ) Amateur Radio Club

Volume 8, Number 12

www.FairLawnARC.org

December 2023.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 President's Message
- 3 Amateur License Testing – December 16
- 4 Notable Hams – K2ORS
- 6 & 13 FLARC Info Archives
- 7 FLARC Info Flyer
- 8 2023 Hamfest Sponsors
- 9 Officers, Committees and Assignments
- 12 Editor's Corner – Jim Jalil W2KNG
- 13 FLARC Club Apparel
- 16 Extra License CLASS announcement
- 17 General License CLASS announcement
- 18 The Way We Were – Fred Belghaus KR2H
- 36 What is it?
- 37 Around the Shack – Hal Kennedy N4GG
- 42 Theoretics – Fred W2ABE
- 42 Hamspeak – Fred W2ABE
- 43 What was it, last month?
- 47 SIG Report – Contest Corner / WFD
- 44 SIG Report - DX
- 45 SIG Report – FT8 & Digital Data
- 46 SIG Report - Portable Ops
- 48 Pay FLARC Dues On-Line
- 49 FLARC Membership / Renewal Form
- 50 Renew ARRL Membership via FLARC
- 51 Business Meeting Notes

From The President

Well, here we are. The election is over, and my head is still spinning; not with confusion, but with profound thanks to all who supported me and voted accordingly.

In the 1972 movie *The Candidate*, newly elected U.S. Senator Bill McKay (Robert Redford) turns to his campaign manager and general factotum Marvin Lucas (Peter Boyle), and utters one of the all time best ending lines in any movie: "What do we do now?"

Although it's tempting for me to react similarly, I won't. I know exactly what to do. If my presidency accomplishes anything at all, let it be remembered for one thing — that more FLARC members got involved in the club, each contributing something of value to the rest of us.

We all have something to contribute: our technical knowledge, our operating skills, our people skills, our willingness to work with others and, together, reach a goal.

It is one thing to get new members, but more importantly, our objective should be to get as many members *involved* and making their unique contributions. I'd rather have 25 members in the club who are on fire with passion and dedication than 200 who aren't.

We have a lot of work ahead of us, and with your cooperation, we can do it. I'm reminded of that campaign slogan from awhile back, "*Si, se puede!*" (Yes, we can).

What can you contribute?

Let's roll up our sleeves and get to work.

73,

Fred KR2H

**Remember:
Ham Radio Is a Contact Sport!**

SOLD !



The day after Thanksgiving is often called "Black Friday." As in past years, the day after Thanksgiving was anything but black for the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. On the night of Black Friday FLARC holds its annual auction. This year was no exception and, as in past years, the annual auction was a resounding success. Refreshments, as always, were offered and enjoyed by all. Special thanks should be noted to this year's two Co-Chairs of the event, Gene WO2W and Bill WA2WL, as well as all the other members who helped out, from setting up and breaking down, to moving equipment from the Clubhouse, to providing transportation and helping out at the refreshment booth.

Sellers and buyers came together to auction off all manner of ham radio gear, from expensive transceivers to meters, antennas and components, including some vintage items. Aside from the auction itself, there was camaraderie and good cheer among members of FLARC and others who came to enjoy the event. Now that this year's auction is behind us, it might not be too early to consider what items you may have tucked away which might be a candidate to be auctioned off next year. The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club Annual Auction is always a great place for sellers and buyers to find each other. – Jim Jalil W2KNG

Now that this year's auction is behind us, it might not be too early to consider what items you may have tucked away which might be a candidate to be auctioned off next year. The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club Annual Auction is always a great place for sellers and buyers to find each other. – Jim Jalil W2KNG

Auction Catalog

This is a review of the items that will be auctioned at the Fair Haven Senior Center on November 26. There will be no online bidding.

Please click here to register as a user for free.



Login

100

1

reCAPTCHA



Logout



Thanks to the auctioneers, W2HP & WO2W, who worked up quite a sweat selling off all those items!

Big thanks to Dave KD2JIP who created and managed the whole on-line software package that provided early seller registration, with a detailed list of all items, as well as the buyer and seller check-in at the door, and kept track of each sale and payment – with email receipts sent in real time!



AMATEUR RADIO TESTING BY THE FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

On December 16, 2023 the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club will continue amateur radio test sessions on a modified basis.

These sessions will be held at the **Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club**.

The location is at 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ

The session starts at 9:15 AM.

A document will be provided to you prior to the date to indicate the time assigned to you.

You must have it with you to take the test.

Prior to Testing:

Send an email to wo2w@arrl.net requesting to book your spot.

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED - NO WALK-INS ACCEPTED.

Upon Arrival:

You must have a government issued ID such as a valid driver's license or passport, a filled out Form 605, and 3 filled out copies of the FCC CSCE form.

Please Bring With You:

You MUST bring and WEAR personal PPE items including a face mask.

2 pens and 2 pencils. None will be provided to you, due to possible virus transmission.

Your FRN number, and (if licensed) a copy of your ham license or a valid CSCE (Certificate of Successful Completion Exam).

Additionally, the **\$15.00 exam fee**. This is payable in cash (exact amount is a must).

For information and scheduling, please contact:

Gene/WO2W

WO2W@arrl.net

Visit our website at www.FairLawnARC.org and <http://bit.ly/FLARC-Testing>

Notable Hams

by Jim Jalil W2KNG

This column features notable hams both past and present. No list of notable hams can be complete without the inclusion of a man who spoke often proudly and openly about ham radio and was, in his day, perhaps the most widely known amateur radio operator in America.

For those of us “of a certain age” his name evokes fond memories of long winter evenings listening to his instantly recognizable voice and endless story telling.

We are of course referring to Jean Shepherd K2ORS.



Jean Shepherd K2ORS

Before we begin perhaps it might be a good idea to introduce Jean Shepherd (1921-1999) to a generation of FLARC members who may not be familiar with his name and legacy. In his day he was as famous as any celebrity in America, or at least any celebrity in New York.

It is hard to explain exactly who Jean Shepherd was, or more importantly what he did. To say he was a radio personality does not nearly do him justice. For years in New York, and widely syndicated elsewhere, Jean Shepherd had a radio show (in New York it was on WOR AM).

This radio show was unlike any other radio show before or since. Each night “Shep” (as he was often called) did nothing but tell stories, long involved stories about the human condition, often invoking wry humor, irony and the pathos of everyday life. That was basically it.... he would

tell stories. No music beyond the famous introductory music, no disc jockey, no news, no traffic, no anything else — just Jean Shepherd telling stories... and it was magical and mesmerizing.

To fully appreciate this, you have to imagine yourself as a 15 year old in bed, under the covers on a cold winter’s night, transistor radio ear bud in place and listening to this giant of radio, and ambassador of ham radio, telling stories which, every now and then, involved ham radio.



Jean Shepherd at WOR

First the mundane part (Shep would have loved that introduction). He was born in Chicago but spent his childhood in Hammond, Indiana — graduating high school there in 1939.

He served in the Army Signal Corps in World War II, never leaving the United States. After the war he began his long career in radio, moving up from places like Hammond, Toledo and Philadelphia before hitting the big time in New York in 1955 where he was a fixture for almost 20 years.

Aside from being an on-air personality, Shep wrote humorous short stories and screenplays. Among his most famous works is the screenplay for the perennial holiday classic, “A Christmas Story.”

The ham radio bug hit Shep early. It is said he learned Morse Code at the age of 8. He earned a certificate of achievement by correctly copying code at 45 words per minute while still in high school.

By the age of 14 he had obtained a “Class A” license

Continued on next page.

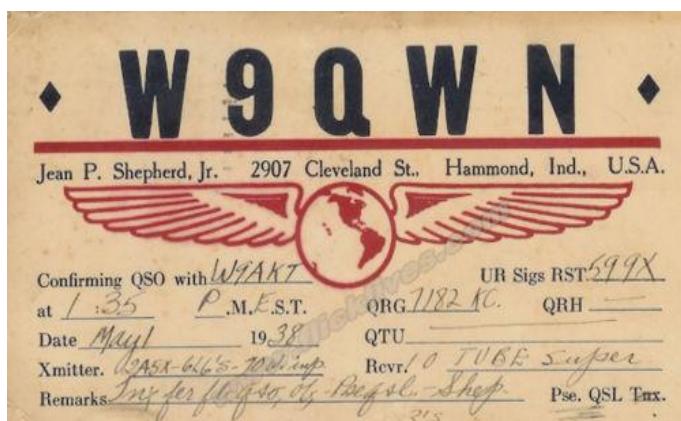
Notable Hams, continued

which at that time granted all amateur privileges, similar to today's Amateur Extra Class.



Young Jean Shepherd at his Shack

His original call sign was W9QWN. Here is his QSL card from those early days.



As Shep's career took him to different cities he had to change his call sign. In those days you could not keep a call sign from a different numbered region, as you can now. (Because back then the call sign was on the station license, at a specific station location, not on the operator license as it is now.)

As he moved, his call signs were - in succession: W4QWN, W8QWN, W3STE and finally his longest and most famous, K2ORS.

What is most endearing to those of us who are ham radio operators is how often he spoke about ham radio on the air. Among his legendary monologues, which was what his show was all about, were classics such as :

- "Totally Dedicated to CW,"
- "Hooked on Amateur Radio,"
- "The Bootleggers,"
- and many others.

In these monologues he would talk openly and lovingly about ham radio to a general audience.

As perhaps the most famous ham in America, Shep generously gave his time to ham radio. He was the keynote speaker at the Dayton Hamvention three times. He also was the keynote speaker at several ARRL Conventions as well as Hudson Division Conventions — including 1964 right here in Bergen County which was hosted by the East Coast VHF Society.

He narrated a 30 minute ARRL video about Oscar satellite radio. A year after his passing, he was inducted into the CQ Magazine **Ham Radio Hall of Fame**.

To get an idea of what Jean Shepherd was all about, here is my favorite show, "The Ham Radio License Exam," where he recounts going to Chicago to get his ham radio license as a 14 year old teenager.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HjK0CAOBvlo&t=349s>

For those who have never heard his voice and stories, sit back, give yourself about a half an hour and listen to a long and winding story that is pure joy.

For those who remember Jean Shepherd, put yourself back in your youth, once again on a cold winter's night, transistor radio under your pillow and ear bud firmly in place (so Mom could not know you were listening to late night radio!) and enjoy.

Jean Shepherd K2ORS (SK)

Name Badges Update

As approved at our business meeting, *The Sign Man of Baton Rouge* is now the approved vendor of FLARC name badges.

The order form will appear on the Sign Man's site and orders can be taken.

<https://thesignman.com/>



2024 Dues Are Due

Dues for 2024 will be accepted by the club starting on December 1st with the 2023 Annual Meeting. There are no changes to dues for the upcoming year. Cutoff date for 2023 was March 31, 2023. But we'll still take it!

Please make checks payable to:
"Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club"
and send them to:

Fair Lawn ARC
– Attn: Treasurer
10-10 20th Street
Fair Lawn, NJ 07410

Please include a member application form with your check regardless of your member status.
It can be found near the back of this newsletter.



The Resonator Is Now Archived!

Ever wanted to search for something in *The Resonator*? Maybe a member profile. Perhaps a past Street Fair. Even who participated at Field Day in 2017.

Now you can. *The Resonator* has now been accepted as part of the Digital Library of Amateur Radio and Communications. DLARC is a project of the Internet Archive (the not-for-profit online library best known for *The Wayback Machine*.) DLARC is growing to be a massive online library of the past and present of ham radio and related communications. It is funded by a grant from Amateur Radio Digital Communications.

When you need to find something, go to:

<https://archive.org/details/flarc-resonator>

You can use the search "text contents" field to do a full-text search on all issues or click "Date Published" to see them sorted by publication date.

You know our little newsletter is cool.

Now a lot more hams around the world will as well.

Get Direct With FLARC!

Here is a direct link to specific club info: just a click away!

<http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://auction.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://calendar.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://events.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://exams.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://news.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://swap.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://tech.FairLawnARC.org>
<http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

<https://groups.io/g/FairLawnARC>



Online License Testing!

Are you looking to get your license or upgrade without leaving your home? All you need is a laptop computer with a video camera.

There are number of sites listed on hamstudy.org/sessions. These folks will walk you through taking an exam online.

I have worked with both WB5QNG and AA7HW. If you have any questions, please contact me at mStevenk2sab@gmail.com

73,

Steven Boston K2SAB

The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio

Why is FLARC New Jersey's Most Exciting Radio Club?

Annual and Special Events



- Field Day
- Winter Field Day
- World Amateur Radio Day
- Portable Day
- Earth and Environmental Days
- Field Trips
- Club Exchanges
- Special Events
- Public Service Activities
- Public Events
- Ham fests and Auctions
- Foxhunts
- Contests
- Youth Activities and more



There Is Something Every Night At FLARC!

Monday: Near and Far Net

Tuesday: DMR Net and Open House at the clubhouse

Wednesday: ARES/RACES Net

Thursday: Tech Net

Friday: Open House at the clubhouse or *Kawfee Tawk* Speaker Series (Monthly via Zoom)

Weekends: Open House at the clubhouse, POTA and other station activations, Contests, Foxhunts



Special Interest Groups

- Portable Ops (POTA, SOTA, etc.)
- DX: Chase the rare ones
- Digital Voice: DMR and other modes
- FT8: Plus, other WSJT modes
- Satellite: Also, for weather interests
- Monitoring: SWL and other listening
- Contesting
- EMCOMM
- Radio Direction Finding
- Raspberry pi, Arduino



Plus:

- A five-position operating station clubhouse
- An active repeater—W2NPT linked with NJ2BS.
- New antennas on the roof
- Monthly VE testing
- An award-winning newsletter
- Monthly speaker programs
- Educational programs and activities
- Active in-person and social networking
- An extensive video education archive

That is Why FLARC Is the Most Exciting Club Around!

Come join us in-person or via Zoom for more activities, speakers, and projects!

www.fairlawnarc.org





A Thanks To All Our 2023 Hamfest Sponsors!



Easy Way Ham Books

Hamsource

Kantronics
~~~~~

KB<sup>3</sup>



MASTRANT  
ANTENNA GUYING

MFJ

SEMINOLE  
WIRE & CABLE  
make.deliver.connect.



WAYNE ELECTRONICS LLC

*Sponsors as of 25 April*

**The Club** Fair Lawn ARC is the fastest growing ham club around, with five operating positions in a permanent clubhouse. Visitors and guests are always welcome. The club is open every Friday night, except when there is a Business Meeting scheduled, from NLT 6:30 PM. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30PM.

**2023 Officers, Committees and Assignments**

|                                     |                                                   |                         |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| President                           | Fred Belghaus                                     | KR2H                    |
| Vice President                      | Robert Marchini                                   | KD2SOG                  |
| Treasurer                           | Gene Ottenheimer                                  | WO2W                    |
| Secretary                           | Jim Jalil                                         | W2KNG                   |
| Trustee                             | Brian Cirulnick                                   | KD2KLN                  |
| Trustee                             | Judith Shaw                                       | KC2LTM                  |
| Trustee                             | Lowell "Van" VantSlot                             | W2DLT                   |
| Field Day                           | Noel Pagan<br>Steve Wraga                         | W2MSA<br>WA2BYX         |
| Member Services<br>Health & Welfare | Judith Shaw                                       | KC2LTM                  |
| Marketing                           | Nomar Vizcarrondo<br>Jim Cooper                   | NP4H<br>W2JC            |
| Program                             | [open]                                            |                         |
| Video/YouTube                       | Thom Guida                                        | W2NZ                    |
| Social Media                        | Brian Duddy<br>Thom Guida<br>Dave Marotti         | N2BTD<br>W2NZ<br>NK2Q   |
| Photographer                        | Giovanni Lucero                                   | K2GIO                   |
| Community Relations                 | Gene Ottenheimer<br>Dave Gotlib<br>Ed Efchak      | WO2W<br>KD2MOB<br>WX2R  |
| Hamfest                             | Gene Ottenheimer<br>Nomar Vizcarrondo             | WO2W<br>NP4H            |
| Auction                             | [open]                                            |                         |
| Education                           | Bill Kelly<br>Earle "Skip" Barker<br>Paul Brennan | NB1LL<br>KD2BRV<br>N6FB |
| Net Scheduler                       | Brian Cirulnick                                   | KD2KLN                  |
| Contests                            | Lowell Vant Slot                                  | W2DLT                   |
| FLARC Historian                     | Fred Belghaus                                     | KR2H [W2AAB]            |
| Webmaster                           | Jim Cooper                                        | W2JC                    |
| Technical                           | Paul Cornett<br>Jim Cooper<br>Fred Wawra          | W2IP<br>W2JC<br>W2ABE   |
| RACES/ARES Director                 | Dave Gotlib                                       | KD2MOB                  |
| RACES/ARES Liaison                  | Steve Wraga                                       | WA2BYX                  |
| Newsletter Editor                   | Jim Jalil                                         | W2KNG                   |
| Newsletter Publisher                | Jim Cooper                                        | W2JC                    |
| Quartermaster                       | Fred Wawra                                        | W2ABE                   |
| W2NPT Trustee                       | Paul Cornett                                      | W2IP                    |
| NK2H Trustee                        | Ed Efchak                                         | WX2R                    |

President serves as ex officio to all committees

**Want a Call Sign License Plate?**

Amateur Radio (Ham operators) license plates may be purchased for a \$15 fee, for passenger vehicles, but not for commercial vehicles or motorcycles. (Applicants must be licensed by the Federal Communications Commission.)

Call MVC at 609.292.6500 or (toll free in NJ) 888.486.3339 to request an application.

The club has applications from time to time. If you would like an application, visit the "contact us" page, and we'll get one out to you.. or find the form and detailed instructions at:

<https://www.state.nj.us/mvc/pdf/vehicles/SP-23.pdf>



**Letters:**

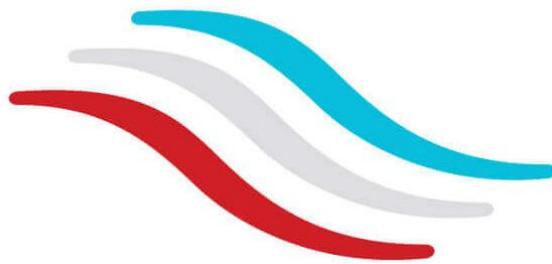
**A New Addition to *The Resonator***

The editor has received a lot of nice notes, letters and comments about this newsletter and the club in general. We have not published them in the past but going forward we will at least try.

Here are the grounds rules:

- Please keep all comments as brief and succinct as possible.
- No personal attacks.
- No political rants.
- No comments promoting violence, racism, religious intolerance, vulgarity, obscenity, or other such discourteous behavior.
- The Editor reserves the right to exclude any comments that violate our guidelines and may subject the writer to further disciplinary action by the club.

**PAY YOUR  
DUES NOW!**



# FlexRadio



Hidetsugu Yagi's 130th Birthday Google Doodle

## Follow FLARC ON THE WEB

Facebook: <http://facebook.FairLawnARC.org>

Twitter: [@FairLawnARC](https://twitter.com/FairLawnARC)

Blog: <http://blog.FairLawnARC.org>

Youtube: <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Website: <http://FairLawnARC.org>

## SIG Group Participation as of November 27, 2023

Here is an update on the roster of Special Interest Groups...many groups have increased in size during the last month. About 45% of all members have joined at least one group.

|                   |     |
|-------------------|-----|
| EMCOMM            | 11  |
| Contesting        | 14  |
| Digital Voice     | 32  |
| Monitoring        | 27  |
| DX                | 19  |
| FT8               | 24  |
| Satellite         | 20  |
| Portable Ops      | 49  |
| Radio Astronomy   | 2   |
| Raspberry pi      | 8   |
| Direction Finding | 6   |
| FLARC General     | 189 |

Sign up for a group... or ...

why not start one?

Contact [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org)  
if you would like to start a new  
Special Interest Group.

# The Clubhouse Is Open Four Fridays In December!!

| Date        | Clubhouse Status                                                             |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| December 1  | <b>CLOSED – Bus. Mtg &amp; Holiday Dinner<br/>at Fair Lawn Senior Center</b> |
| December 8  | <b>OPEN</b>                                                                  |
| December 15 | <b>OPEN</b>                                                                  |
| December 22 | <b>OPEN</b>                                                                  |
| December 29 | <b>OPEN</b>                                                                  |



**Pop-Up Tuesdays are now in-person at the club  
as well as in the Zoom-room.**

The club will follow all borough COVID-19 requirements for these events.



Pop-Up Tuesday informal "ragchew"  
TUESDAY at 19:00 EDT in ZOOM-room  
and live AT THE CLUB.

## Editor's Corner

What draws someone to ham radio? In the United States there were, at last count, 756,672 licensed amateur radio operators. So there are most likely 756,672 answers to that question. But what is true for all of these hams, every 756,672 of them, is that each was initially attracted to ham radio at some level and for some reason, made the effort to study for a ham radio license, then went out of their way to take the FCC Amateur Radio license exam.

So why after all this effort do so many never even get on the air. Moreover, of those that do take the next step to get on the air, why do so many fall away, become inactive and never renew their license?

Ham radio can be daunting, and sometimes intimating. It may be this aspect of ham radio that inhibits a ham from going past the entry stage to the larger world of all the innumerable, varied and interesting avenues of the ham radio experience.

Everyone of us, when we first became hams, had a million questions. If there is nowhere to go, those questions become stumbling blocks - then road blocks to ham radio growth. There are "Elmers" to be sure, and fortunate is the ham who has an experienced, knowledgeable and patient Elmer to guide them on their ham radio journey.

The Elmers are the unsung heroes and heroines of ham radio. But it may be that having such an Elmer is less the rule and more the exception for the average ham. Where then does a newly minted ham go to ask the most basic questions...

- How long should a dipole be?
- Are there other kinds of antennas I can use?
- Do I use USB or LSB?
- What equipment should I buy at my price range?
- Is grounding important?
- How do I ground my station?

These are very real questions, and GOOGLE and ARRL publications can only do so much. If left unanswered, the new ham may never truly discover the amazing and rich world of ham radio.

Ham radio is more than just communicating over radio, it is connecting with people. In speaking with a fellow member of FLARC the other night he made an excellent observation. He said the three reasons he enjoys ham radio are: 1. The challenge and joy of radio at the technical level. 2. Communicating on the air in

all forms.... contests, award seeking, rag chewing... just the joy of communicating by radio and 3. The camaraderie of other hams.

It may be that what is missing for the new ham is not so much an Elmer as the camaraderie of fellow hams. It may be that it is that aspect - the joy of being around other hams - that is missing in the ham radio life of a new ham.

That camaraderie can also play a significant Elmer-type role. The new ham does not have to rely on one Elmer when there is a roomful of experienced hams ready and happy to answer questions and guide the new ham.

That is where the ham radio club comes in. This is where FLARC comes in. We at FLARC should continue to make every effort, starting with new hams who pass through our VE Sessions, to make ourselves known to new hams, to welcome new hams and encourage them to join us.

Our infectious love of ham radio will undoubtedly be felt and absorbed. The opportunity to ask questions without fear of embarrassment or judgment, which has always been the hallmark of ham radio, will quickly be understood to be a resource to the new ham. Instead of one Elmer the new ham will have many.

Perhaps we should think of different ways of reaching local newly licensed hams and opening our doors to them. We have a reputation of being the "friendliest club around" (which is well deserved), but a light under a bushel does no good. We are a ham radio club not only for ourselves but for new hams as well. We hams of today are, in a very real sense, stewards of the hobby, making sure it is here for the next generation and helping to pass ham radio on to them.

Every ham we save from falling away is a victory for ham radio. But to do so we have to reach out to new hams and extend our hand. We should be a club not just for ourselves but for the good and future of ham radio. That future is in the hands of new hams and it is up to us to make ourselves known to new hams, to welcome them, encourage them and be the same resource to them that older hams of the generation before were to us.

Our welcome mat is out to new hams... let's make that known.

Jim Jalil W2KNG

## **Vast Archive of FLARC Activities and Info**

Members are reminded that we have a large archive of YouTube videos of our previous many years of Kawfee Tawk™ presentations, which cover many aspects of ham radio. Our mostly unsung hero club videographer, Thom W2NZ, has spent thousands of hours of his own time creating really professional quality videos of these 167 presentations. Visit our club YouTube page and you will see all of them listed on the main page, at <http://youtube.FairLawnARC.org>

Another large and rather unused archive is that of our seven years of the club newsletter, The Resonator. They provide a nice historical record of the many activities of FLARC over the years, as well as lots of useful info about ham radio and electronics. The entire archive is at <http://newsletters.FairLawnARC.org>

And don't forget the FILES area of our groups.io website, where useful and important info is saved:

<https://fairlawnarc.groups.io/g/main/files>

## **Renew Your ARRL Dues... Send Free Money to FLARC!**

The ARRL has a great program to support affiliated clubs in that it sends part of your dues back to the club if you renew through the club.

So... when you get your ARRL renewal, send both your check and your renewal application to our trusty Treasurer, who will take care of getting your renewal to Newington and a fat check for \$5.00 back to FLARC.

Nothing can be simpler...  
you just have to remember!!

***Print and use the  
form on page 52  
of this issue of***

***The Resonator***



## **Club Apparel — Get Them While They're RED!**

Club apparel is always in vogue. Red is always "in" and your club friends all have them... you *want* a shirt or jacket for the next FLARC event! Great for Field Day!

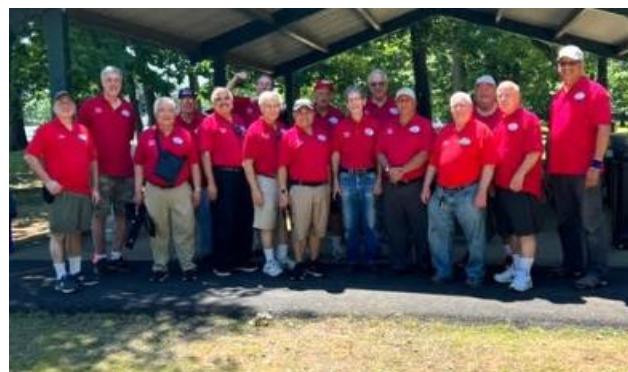
Don't forget.... they're easy to order.

Go to [www.hamthreads.com](http://www.hamthreads.com)

or visit <http://apparel.FairLawnARC.org>

**Check out the item selection that is posted on the FLARC website (with pictures and prices).** Order the shirts or other items you want with either the regular FLARC logo or the still-cool 60th anniversary logo. Note: **RED** is the primary and preferred club standard shirt color.

And why not **WEAR** your nice red shirt when you come to the club, especially for meetings and events.



**It's easy to spot FLARC members  
with their red club shirts !**

## **Ham Radio Is Contagious And It Won't Make You Sick!!**

## **2023 FLARC Nets On The W2NPT Repeater:**

**Near and Far Net Mondays at 8PM**

**W2NPT and NJ2BS Repeaters**

**Special Note:** As non-profit, the IRS now requires that we disclose annually the use of paid lobbyists to our members and indicate approximately what percentage of their dues goes toward that. 0% of your dues payment will be used by the club to directly pay a lobbyist firm to lobby on behalf of all our members regarding pending legislation that impacts our hobby.



**NEWHAMS.INFO**

Training, information, and encouragement for new amateur radio operators.

<https://newhams.info/>

#### BEQUEATHS AND DONATIONS

Planned gifts usually imply the family donation of amateur equipment to the club when someone has become a Silent Key. But it can be more. Club members might consider making a gift through a will or trust; gifts that help provide lifetime income to the club. Consult with your lawyer, estate planner or tax advisor if you feel such as gift is worthy.

Content and opinions expressed by contributors do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club, its Officers or members. Contributors grant express permission to FLARC to distribute articles in this or any issue of The Resonator. Authors also grant express permission for the use and/or repurposing of these articles, in part or in full, in other publications with credit to the original author and to The Resonator. All material is copyright ©2023-12-04. Do not copy or reproduce any of this material without the written permission of FLARC.

Thanks!  
for your  
Support!!

**This is YOUR club.... Be a part of it !!**

#### About The Club

*The Resonator* is published monthly and is the official (and only) newsletter of The Fair Lawn Amateur Radio Club. FLARC was established in 1956 and has met continuously since inception. **The club is sponsored by the Borough of Fair Lawn.** The club meets every Friday, except when a Business Meeting is scheduled, at 6PM at the club station in The Fair Lawn Community Center, 10-10 20th Street, Fair Lawn, NJ. Business meetings are the first Friday of the month at 7:30 PM at the Fair Lawn Senior Center, and on Zoom.

Visitors ARE ALWAYS welcome at our meetings.

FLARC operates the W2NPT repeater (145.470- PL 167.9) located high atop the Community Center. The analog repeater is open to all amateurs for use without restrictions.

The club has nearly two hundred paid members.

Dues are currently \$25 per year;  
\$20 for new members.

For more information, please see our website, at  
<http://membership.FairLawnARC.org>

All content in *The Resonator* is protected by copyright ©2023.  
No other use without permission.



**FAIR LAWN'S  
COMMUNICATIONS CENTER!  
With Our Antennas On The Roof!**



## Blood Donors Needed In This Time Of Emergency

The Red Cross and related organizations are in great need for blood donations since most corporate blood drives have been cancelled. This has become acute recently.

### [Communitybloodservices.com](http://Communitybloodservices.com)

has a network of offices open during the week and would really welcome folks making appointments to donate blood.

Dear fellow Amateur Radio Operators,

The American Red Cross (ARC) in New Jersey is working on a project where Amateur Radio Operators (HAMS) would support Red Cross internal emergency communications during a disaster. Red Cross sites can be shelters, warehouses, points of distribution, family reunification centers, community reception centers, and other sites where the Red Cross is supporting disaster response and recovery missions.

We are seeking HAMS to support these sites as a backup for conventional communications that may fail during a disaster. This work is in direct support of safety of life and protection of property (47 CFR § 97.403).

Currently, we are only looking for names of operators who would be interested in helping and their location within the state. The how will come after we know the who.

We are looking for HAMS to work as partners, either as an individual or with an organized group (club, ARES, RACES). We are not looking to take anyone away from their other committed roles that they would perform for their communities.

We have split the state into three territories, North-Central-South, each containing seven counties, with communications being provided within the territories and the state.

The Red Cross will provide free disaster training to better understand what we are doing, as well as drills and exercises. Your commitment will be to attend training, drills, and exercises when you are able to and based on your ability to participate at the time that a disaster strikes.

If you are interested in helping or learning more about this opportunity to use your amateur radio license in support of emergency communications in New Jersey, please fill out the form, at the link below.

73, ARC Assist Committee

Ed K2BED • Mike KC2UOA • Peter S, not yet licensed • Bill NB1LL

Form is at <https://forms.office.com/r/tqmB8cBV3F>



## FLARC November 18, 2023 VE Testing Results

With VE testing back on schedule, Gene W02W reports the following results:

| Name             | Call   | License Earned |
|------------------|--------|----------------|
| Edward Nienstedt | KE2CFY | General        |
| Michael Diehl    |        | Technician     |
| Pawel Durak      | K2KPD  | Extra          |
|                  |        |                |
|                  |        |                |
|                  |        |                |
|                  |        |                |
|                  |        |                |
|                  |        |                |

Testing for next month will be at the Fair Lawn Recreation Center - with "Covid Restrictions."

See page 12 of this Resonator copy, and also the FLARC website for the latest details.

## Ten Special Interest Groups [SIGs] Already Formed: Any Others?

A new SIG—Radio Direction Finding—has started under the tutelage of Bob KD2BKD. Club interest continues to grow in the SIGs.

Another recently formed SIG is for those interested in Raspberry Pi and Arduino projects, but now includes DoltYourself (DIY)/Makers kit building, 3D printing and similar topics – also managed by KD2BKD.

A list of all of the current SIGs is shown on page 6.

Other possible groups, from the member survey, include:

- *Radio Propagation*
- *Antennas and how they work*
- *Ham radio software*
- *Technical assistance to club members*

Anyone interested in leading any of these groups...?

Please contact [webmaster@FairLawnARC.org](mailto:webmaster@FairLawnARC.org)



The Westchester Emergency Communications Assn.

Box 831 Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591

[www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org)

2024

## Amateur Extra Ham Radio Class!

WECA will be conducting a **free** Amateur Extra FCC license exam preparatory class that will run for ten weeks **starting on Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>** and on **Tuesday nights thereafter** from **7-9:15 PM in-person** at the Westchester Fire Training Center, 4 Dana Road in Valhalla, NY 10595\*\* and via **Zoom**. VE test sessions are available in the area and at the FTC (\$15 testing fee).

Please join us for this **free** interactive course taught by a team of knowledgeable Amateur Radio Operators from WECA. Instructors will be Amateur Extras or others who have special knowledge of specific subject areas. The class will review the test pool questions and answers and provide explanations of the accompanying concepts. There are >700 questions in the pool: 50 test questions; 37 correct (74%) to pass. **All are welcome to attend** who wish to gain additional knowledge of amateur radio subjects even if you do not expect to take the test or do not hold an amateur license.

### Texts:

1. ARRL Extra Class License Manual 12<sup>th</sup> Edition w/link to Practice Exam Software
2. ARRL Extra Q&A 5<sup>th</sup> Edition

Both are available from ARRL at:

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/120286>

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/Product-Details/productId/120287>

or from Gene W2KJI at KJI Electronics, Cedar Grove, NJ on 973-571-1930;

Gene is a reputable local ham radio dealer, or from

Amazon- Be very sure to order the correct editions.

1. Please purchase the license manual and begin reading as soon as possible.
2. The Q&A has answers and brief explanations for all pool questions- a worthwhile investment.

### Conduct of Training:

Subjects include: FCC regulations, operating procedures and practices, radio propagation, electrical principles, practical circuit components and design, modulation, emissions, antenna design, transmission lines and safety. Hands-on practical on-air HF exercises are included.

Each class will have an instructor/facilitator who will be knowledgeable about the subject area and will involve others who can make contributions. If you have an area of strong interest and expertise that you can share with the group, please let me know.

If you would like to upgrade to Amateur Extra, please contact me by email at [Education@WECA.org](mailto:Education@WECA.org) so I can register you and provide additional information.

**Larrie Sutliff W2UL**  
**WECA Education Director**

\*\* If you haven't been to the FTC before, you need to know that we enter through the rear door (the front door is typically locked/no parking). From Route 9A, with the Hawthorne Home Depot at your back, proceed East on Dana Road about 2/10 of a mile, past 4 Dana Road, and turn right on Walker Road. Park in the long lot on the right and go down the outdoor stairway, pass the trailer and enter through the glass doors. Classroom #3 is down the hall to the right. Handicapped access is available at the training level- just park in front and use the security phone or call me on 732-693-4504.

**FTC Closing Weather Number: 914-231-1615**



The Westchester Emergency Communications Assn.  
Box 831 Sleepy Hollow, NY 10591  
[www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org)  
2024

## Amateur General Ham Radio Class!

WECA will be conducting its annual **free** preparatory class for the Amateur General FCC exam this spring **in-person** at the Valhalla Fire Training Center 4 Dana Road in Valhalla, NY 10595 **and via Zoom**. The class will run for nine weeks **starting Tuesday evening March 12<sup>th</sup> from 7-9:15 PM**. Subsequent classes will be on Tuesday evenings per the schedule below. Ref. [www.weca.org](http://www.weca.org). Holders of the General license are permitted many additional frequency privileges including access to all HF bands.

Please join us for this free interactive course taught by a team of knowledgeable Amateur Radio Operators from WECA. Instructors will be Amateur Extra and General Class license holders or others who have special knowledge of specific subject areas. The class will review the test pool questions and answers and provide explanations of the accompanying concepts. All are welcome to attend who wish to gain additional knowledge of amateur radio even if you do not expect to take the test or have a license.

### Texts:

1. **The ARRL General Class License Manual 10<sup>th</sup> Edition** (includes access to on-line practice)
2. **The ARRL General Q&A Manual 7<sup>th</sup> Edition** (Includes explanations for all questions.)

Both are available from ARRL at:

<https://home.arrl.org/action/Store/ProductDetails/productId/2009476073> or from:

Gene W2KJI at KJI Electronics, Cedar Grove, NJ: 973-571-1930;

Gene is a reputable local ham radio dealer or from:

Amazon- Be very sure to order the correct editions.

1. **Please purchase the License Manual and begin reading as soon as possible.**
2. **The Q&A manual is also very helpful, but not required.**

### Syllabus & Schedule:

|      |          |        |                                                    |
|------|----------|--------|----------------------------------------------------|
| 3/12 | Tuesday  | Ch 1   | The General Class License & Ham Radio              |
|      |          | Ch 2   | Procedures and Practices                           |
| 3/19 | Tuesday  | Ch 3   | Rules and Regulations                              |
| 3/26 | Tuesday  | Ch 4   | Components and Circuits                            |
| 4/2  | Tuesday  | Ch 5   | Radio Signals and Equipment                        |
| 4/9  | Tuesday  | Ch 1-5 | Exercise: HF Station Install, Practice Net, Review |
| 4/16 | Tuesday  | Ch 6   | Digital Modes                                      |
| 4/23 | Tuesday  | Ch 7   | Antennas                                           |
| 4/30 | Tuesday  | Ch 8   | Propagation                                        |
| 5/7  | Tuesday  | Ch 9   | Electrical and RF Safety, Review                   |
| 5/9  | Thursday |        | VE Test Session                                    |

### FTC Closing Weather Number: 914-231-1615 (Zoom conducted even if FTC closes)

Each class will have an instructor/facilitator who will be knowledgeable about the subject area and will involve others who can make contributions. If you would like to upgrade to Amateur General, please contact me by email at [Education@WECA.org](mailto:Education@WECA.org) so I can register you and provide additional information.

Larrie Sutliff / W2UL

WECA Education Director

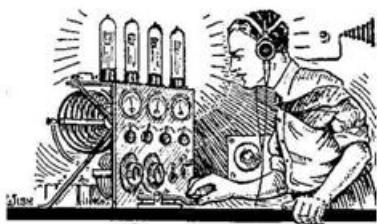


Image from May, 1926 QST, courtesy ARRL

## The Way We Were

By Fred Belghaus KR2H [ex W2AAB]

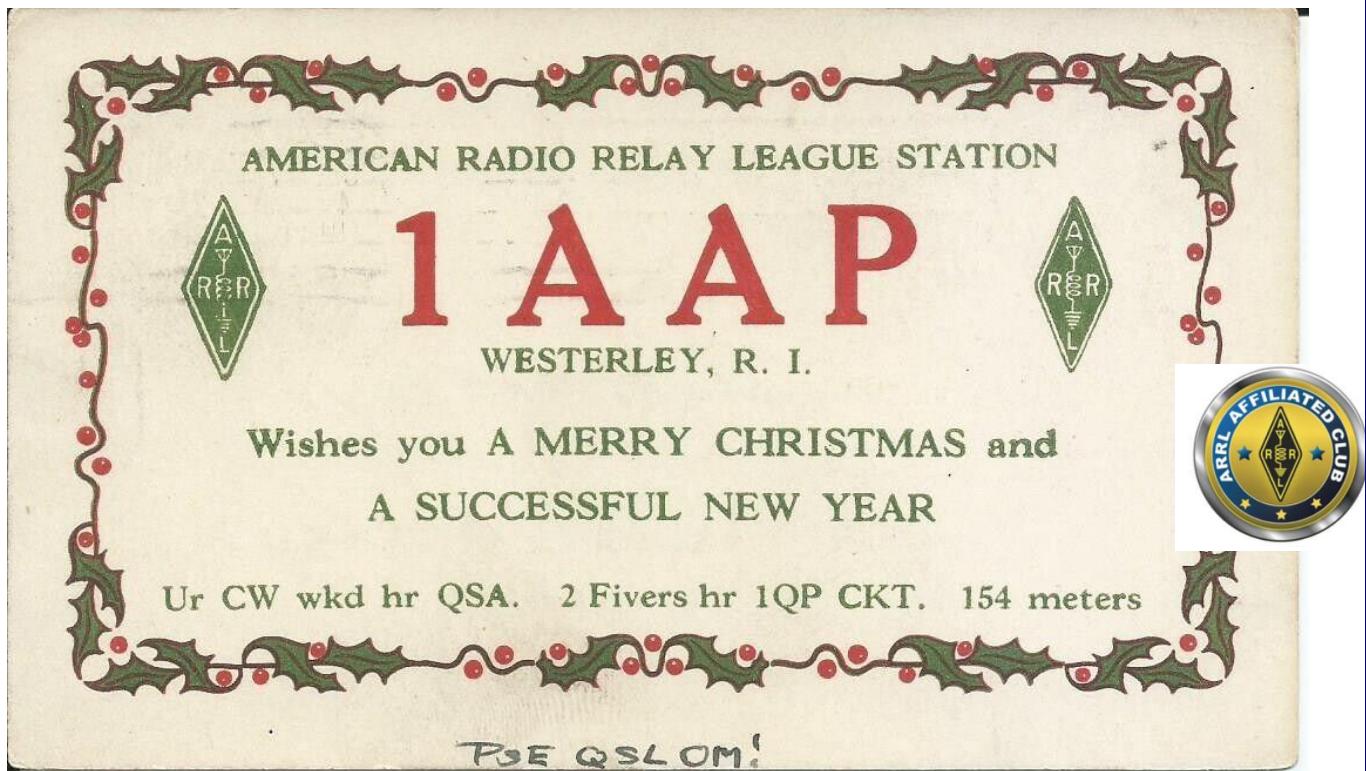
### Special Holiday Edition

#### A Look Back at Some Vintage Holiday QSL Cards

This month, I'm breaking tradition, and putting my usual column on hold, in order to get into the Christmas spirit. Among my treasured antique QSL collection are some that reflect a Christmas and Holiday theme. I've wanted to share these with you for some time, and before I forget again, I'd better do it, so here we go. Once, long ago it seems, it was customary for amateur radio operators to send out these special Holiday QSLs, but I haven't seen any in many years.

Here are some from the 1920s.

1AAP from Westerly, Rhode Island and 9CFY from Colorado Springs.



1AAP's card announces his wavelength as 154 meters. That's roughly 1948 kilohertz in what would be the 160 meter band today. It appears that the ARRL made some of these cards available to their members.

Continued on next page.

### The Way We Were, continued.

Below, 9CFY's card is dated 1925.

It's another ARRL member's card, but with a different design.

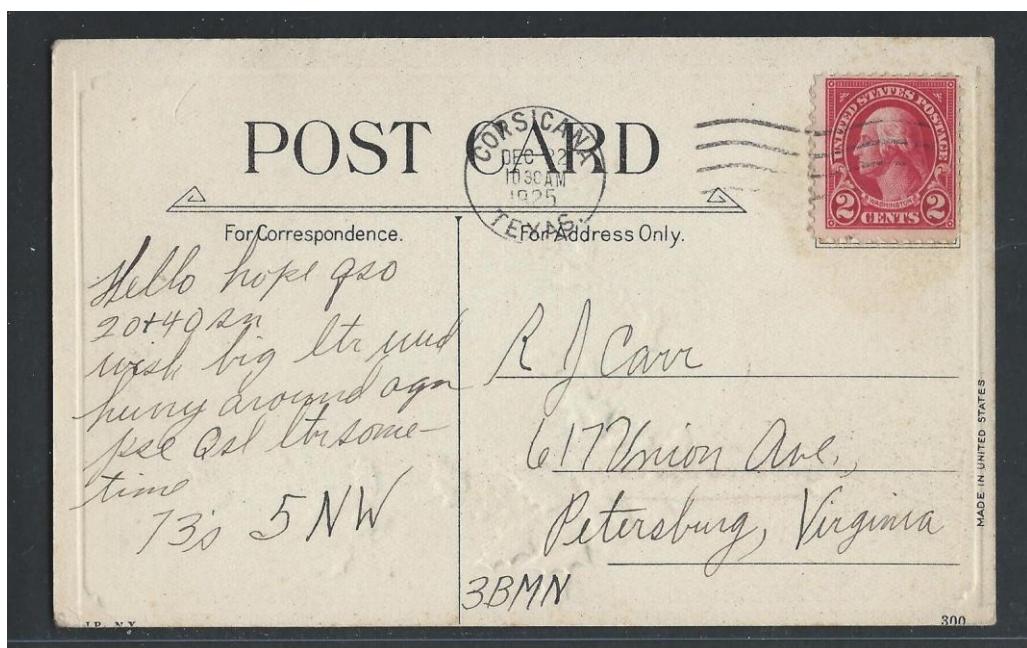


This one is just a "radio" Christmas postcard from 5NW, "Soupy" Groves, one of the ARRL's Directors for many years. It is dated 1925, and addressed to 3BMN in Virginia.



**The Way We Were, continued.**

Here's the reverse side of the card from 5NW.

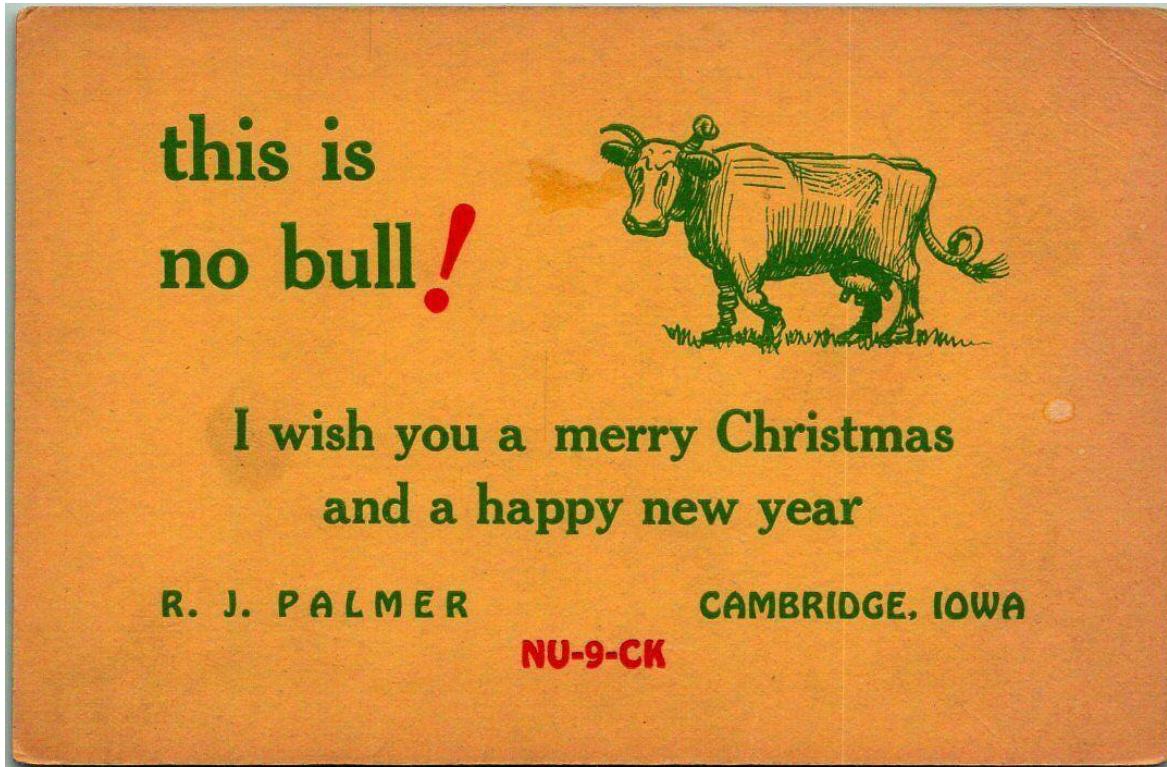


Station 9UB, La Salle, Illinois, adds a big "Merry Christmas" to his 1926 QSL.



**The Way We Were, continued.**

This one's a little different, if not a bit irreverent. It's from the shack of station 9CK, Cambridge, Iowa, from sometime in the 1920s.

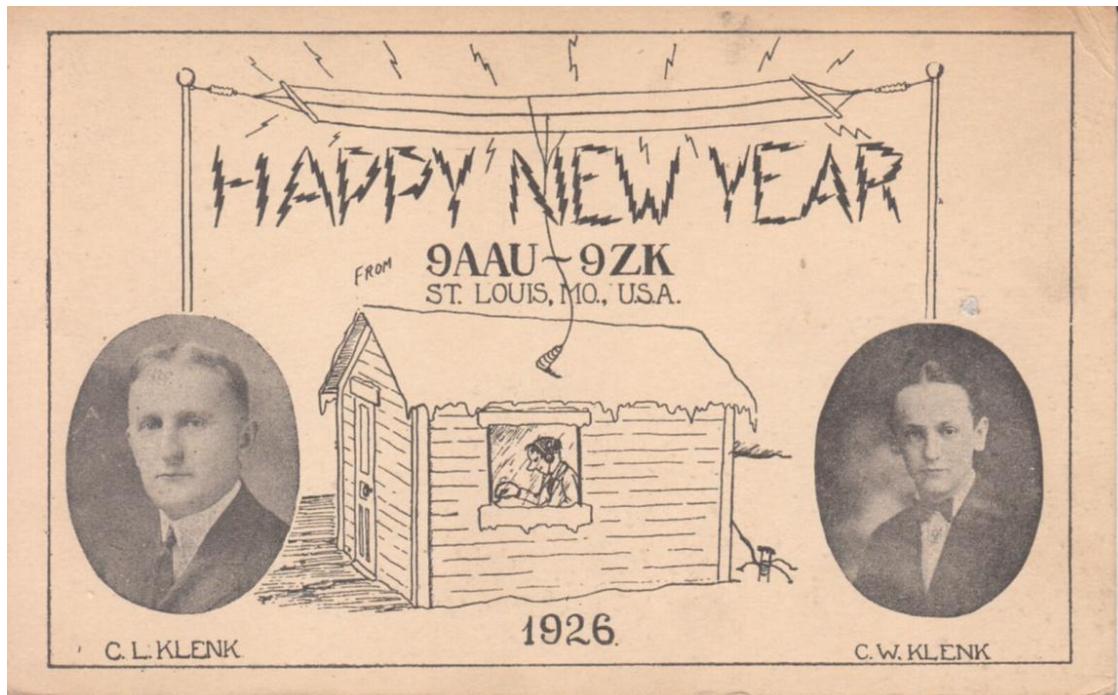


Meanwhile, both operators from station 5FC of Dallas, Texas wish a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and they're also evidently happy to be "Back on the air again."

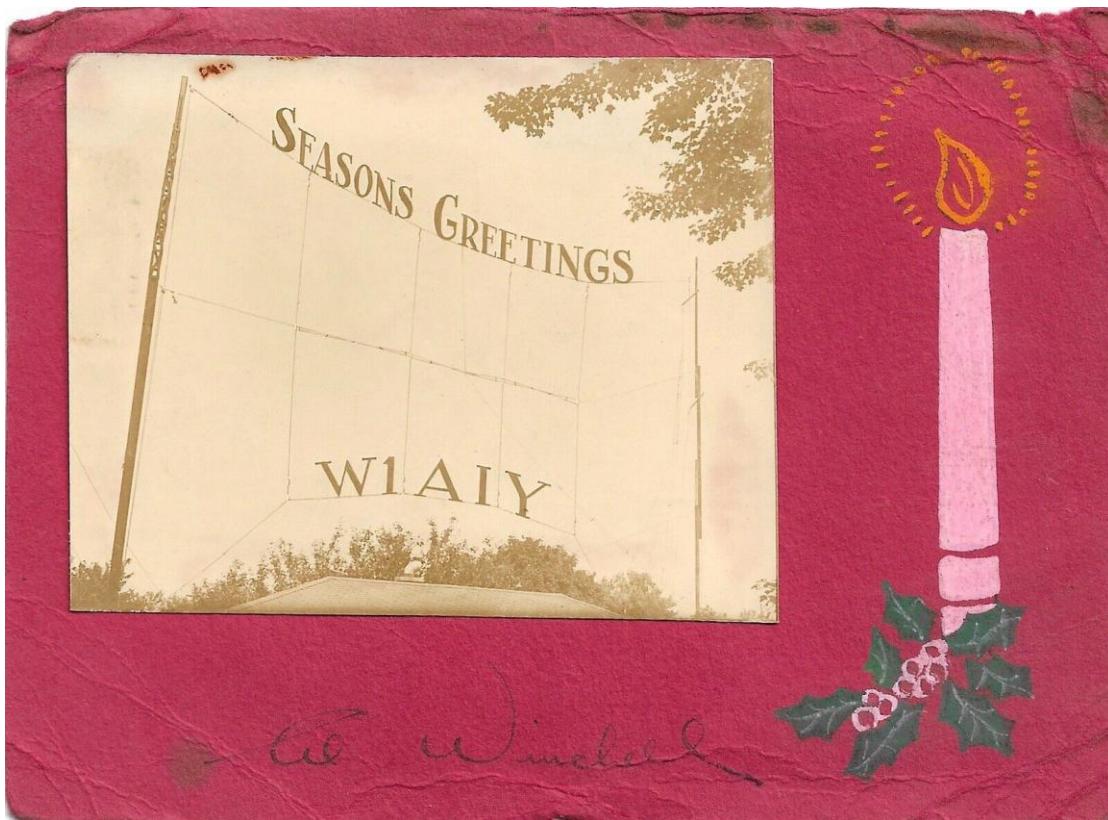


### **The Way We Were, continued.**

From 1926 and St. Louis, Missouri, the Klenks (9AAU and 9ZK) offer their best wishes for the New Year. Note the flat top antenna and their snow covered radio shack.



From the early 1930s, W1AIY offers his Seasons Greetings on this colorful card.

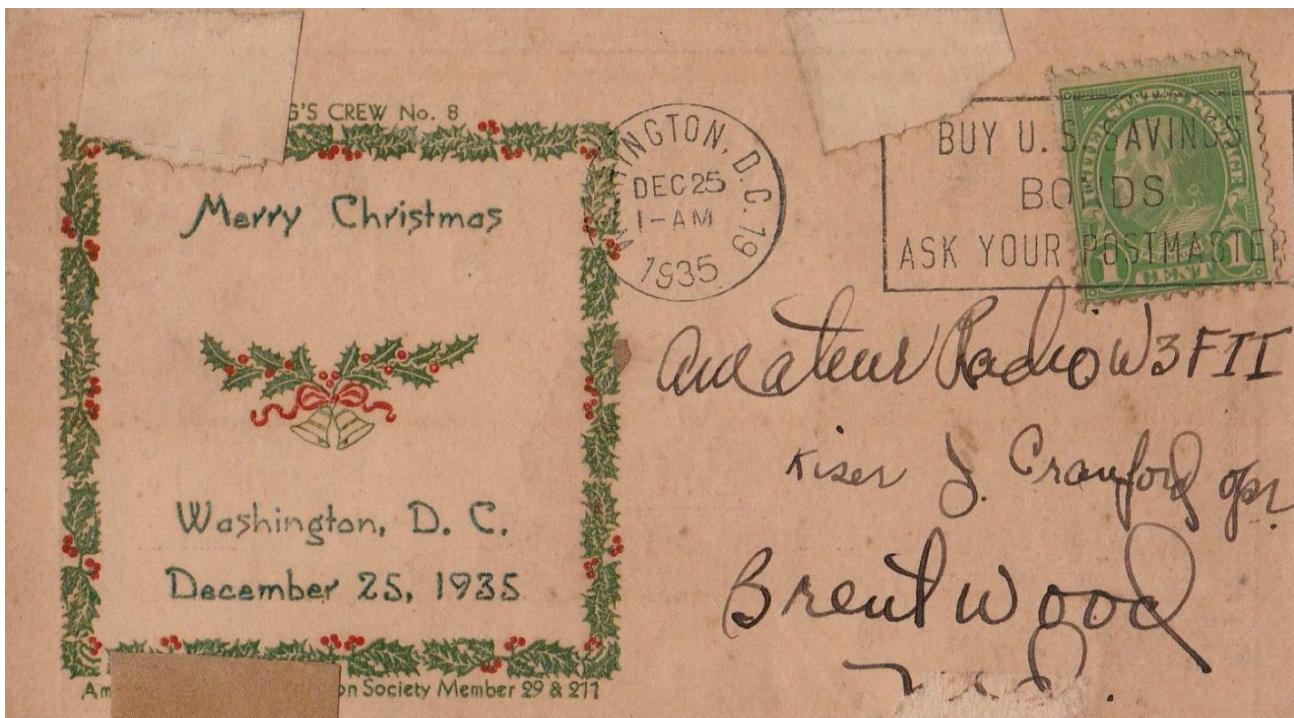


**The Way We Were, continued.**

“Larrie,” W3CIC offers his 1933 greetings with a little embellishment, including a candle with a couple of holly leaves and a little Christmas tree.

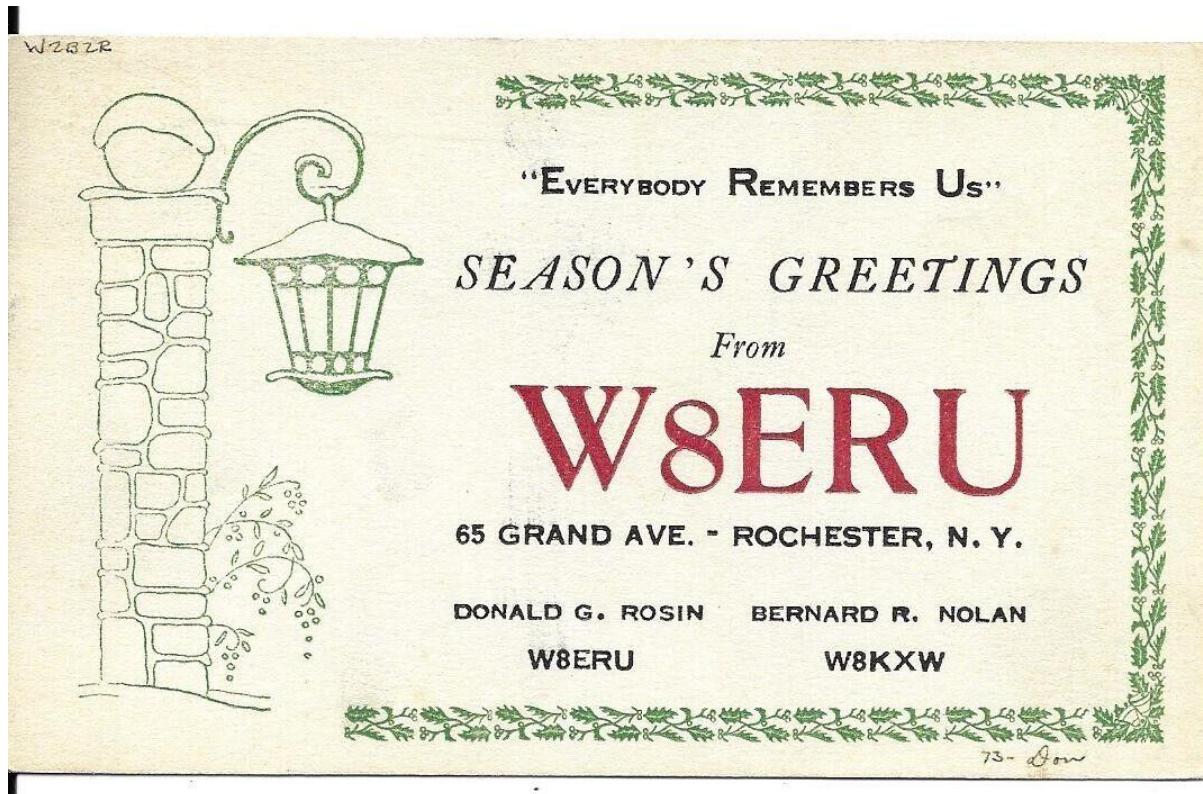


W3EZN's 1935 card is pretty ordinary on its face, but he gets his Christmas message across on the reverse side. The card is postmarked December 25<sup>th</sup>.



**The Way We Were, continued.**

Here's a simple, but attractive card from W8ERU for Christmas, 1938.

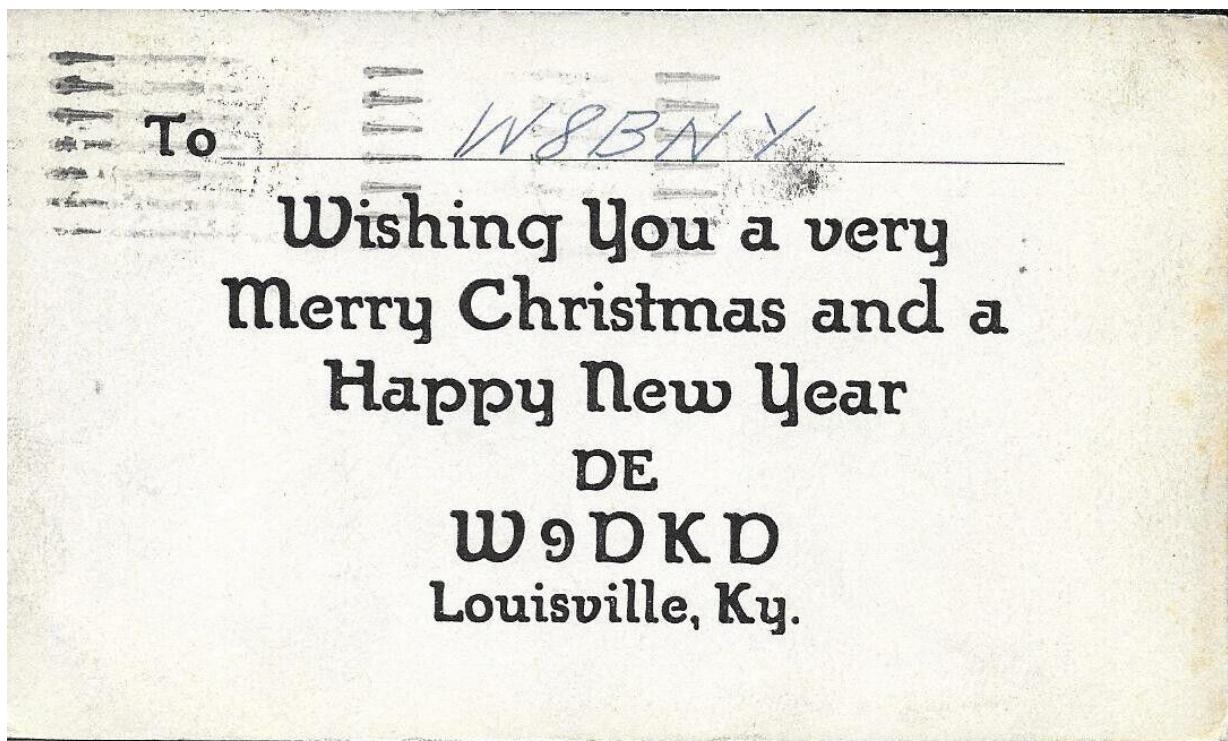


W5HAQ from Houston, Texas sends his Christmas and New Year's greetings on this card from 1939.



**The Way We Were, continued.**

Here is one from 1940, from W9DKD in Louisville, Kentucky.



And another 1940 card, this time from Hollywood, California, and another colorful expression of Christmas cheer via W6KX.



### **The Way We Were, continued.**

This California card from the 1940s portrays the station of W6GFW combining a photo of his station with his Christmas Greetings.



Here's one from "Pop," W9CGY at Waukegan, Illinois in 1948.



### The Way We Were, continued.

PJ5RE in Aruba sent this unusual card that includes a shot of his modern home in 1950.

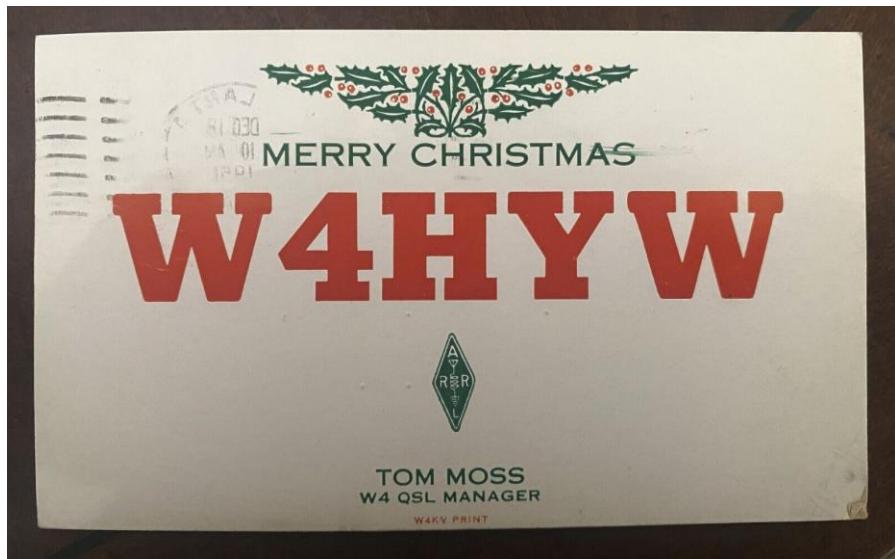


ARUBA N.W.I.



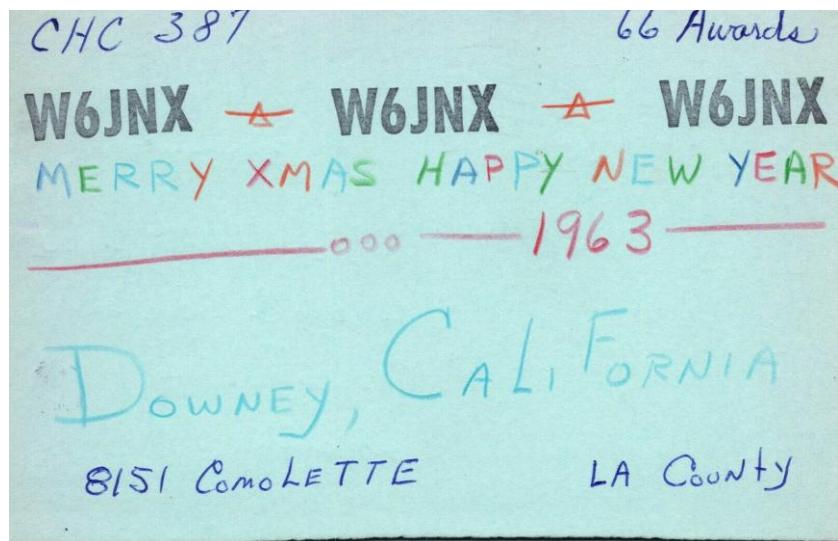
May Christmas Joy  
And all its cheer  
Be yours throughout  
A good New Year

Despite the prosperity of the 1950s, something seems to have changed for many Americans. Here's the one and only example that I could find from that decade, a plain QSL with a simple message from W4HYW on his card from 1951.

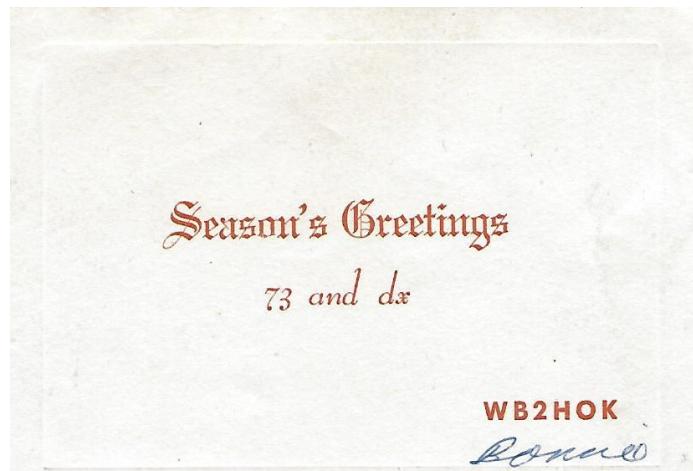


**The Way We Were, continued.**

By the 1960s choices are also few. This card, from 1962, is a hand drawn QSL and Greeting Card from W6JNX, Downey, California.



The only other 1960s example is this simple “Season’s Greetings” card from Bonnie WB2HOK, whom I worked one snowy December night in 1964. But it’s the thought that counts, so a belated “Thanks, Bonnie.”

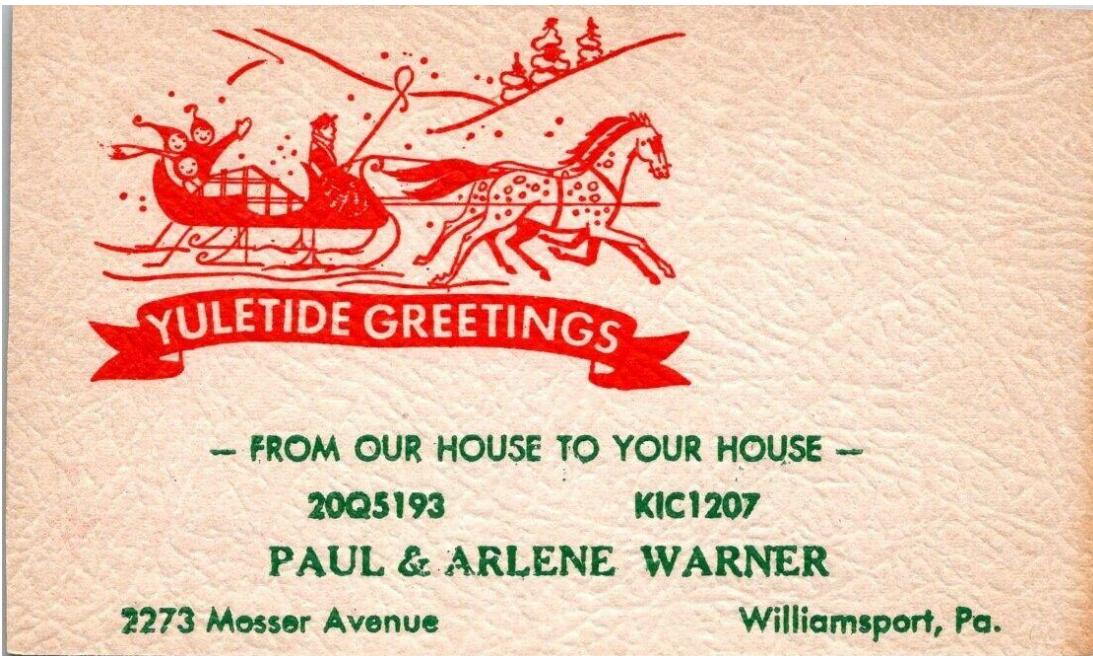


Bonnie was living in Scarsdale, NY at the time. She later married and moved to the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

It’s rather embarrassing to admit that American hams seemed to have all but lost the spirit of the season by the late 1960s; but sometime in the early 1970s I had a nice QSO on 2 meters with W2QYX in rural Passaic County. I sent my QSL and thanked him for the contact, but instead of receiving his QSL back, I got a Christmas card from him. That’s okay, it’s the thought that counts. Unfortunately, I can’t find that card now, so I can’t include it.

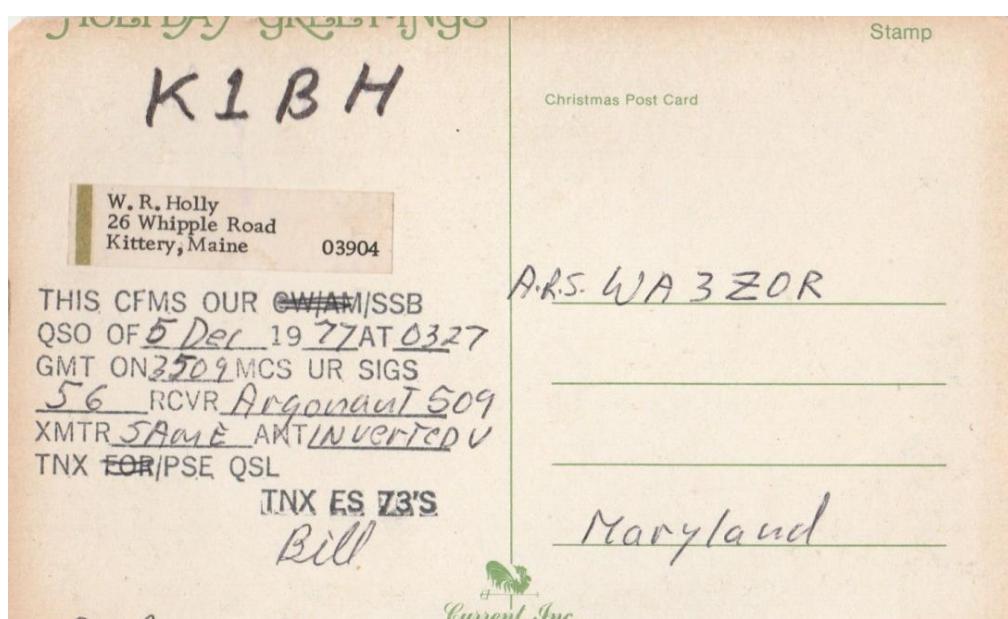
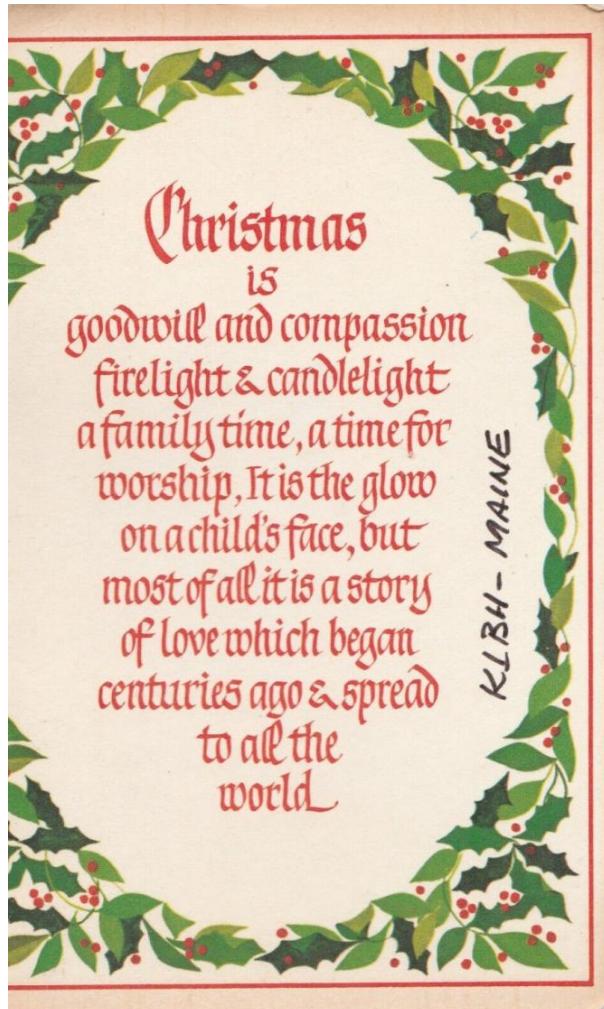
## **The Way We Were, continued.**

But CBers didn't entirely forget Christmas, as seen on these cards. The first is from the 1960s, the second from 1976.



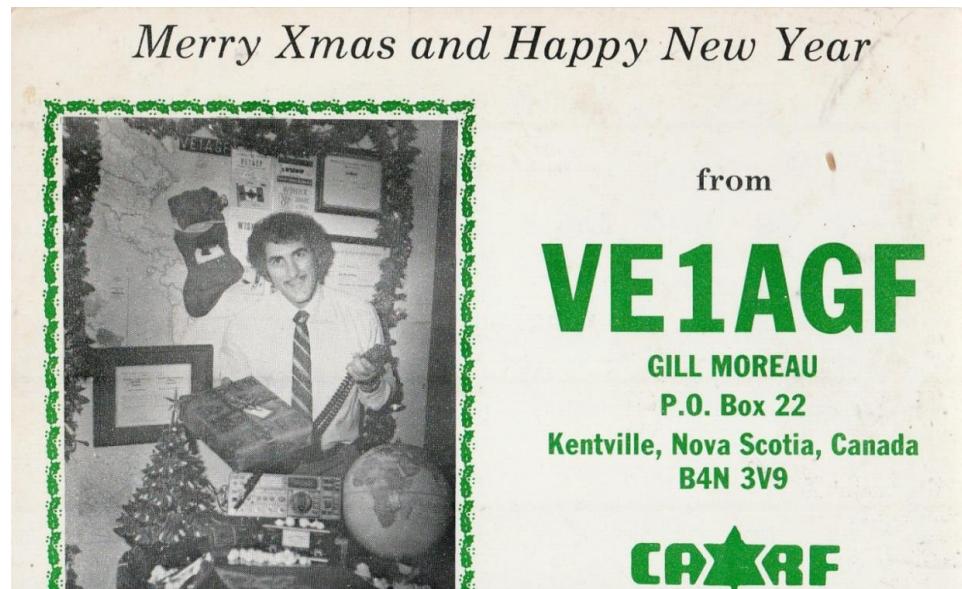
## The Way We Were, continued.

Here's one from K1BH, Bill Holly, in 1977.

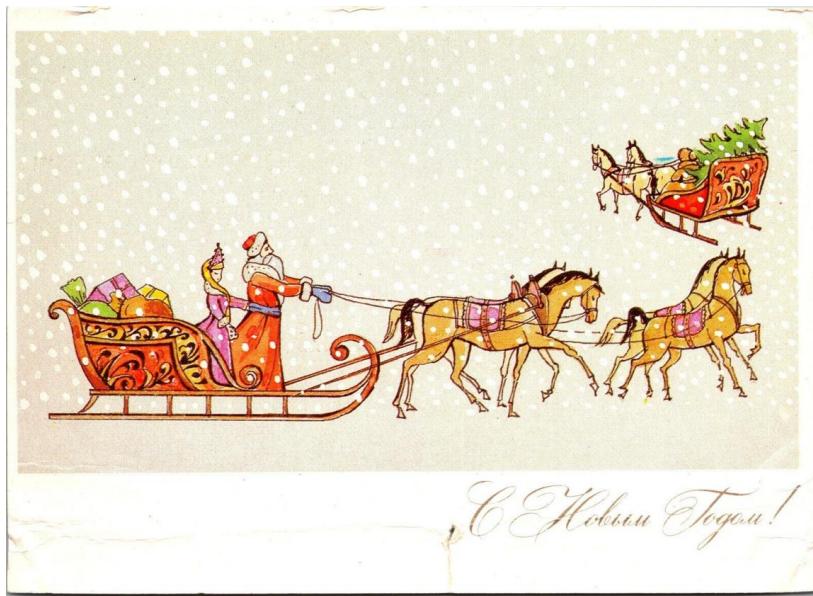


### The Way We Were, continued.

And there's this one from our Canadian neighbor, VE1AGF, in 1985.



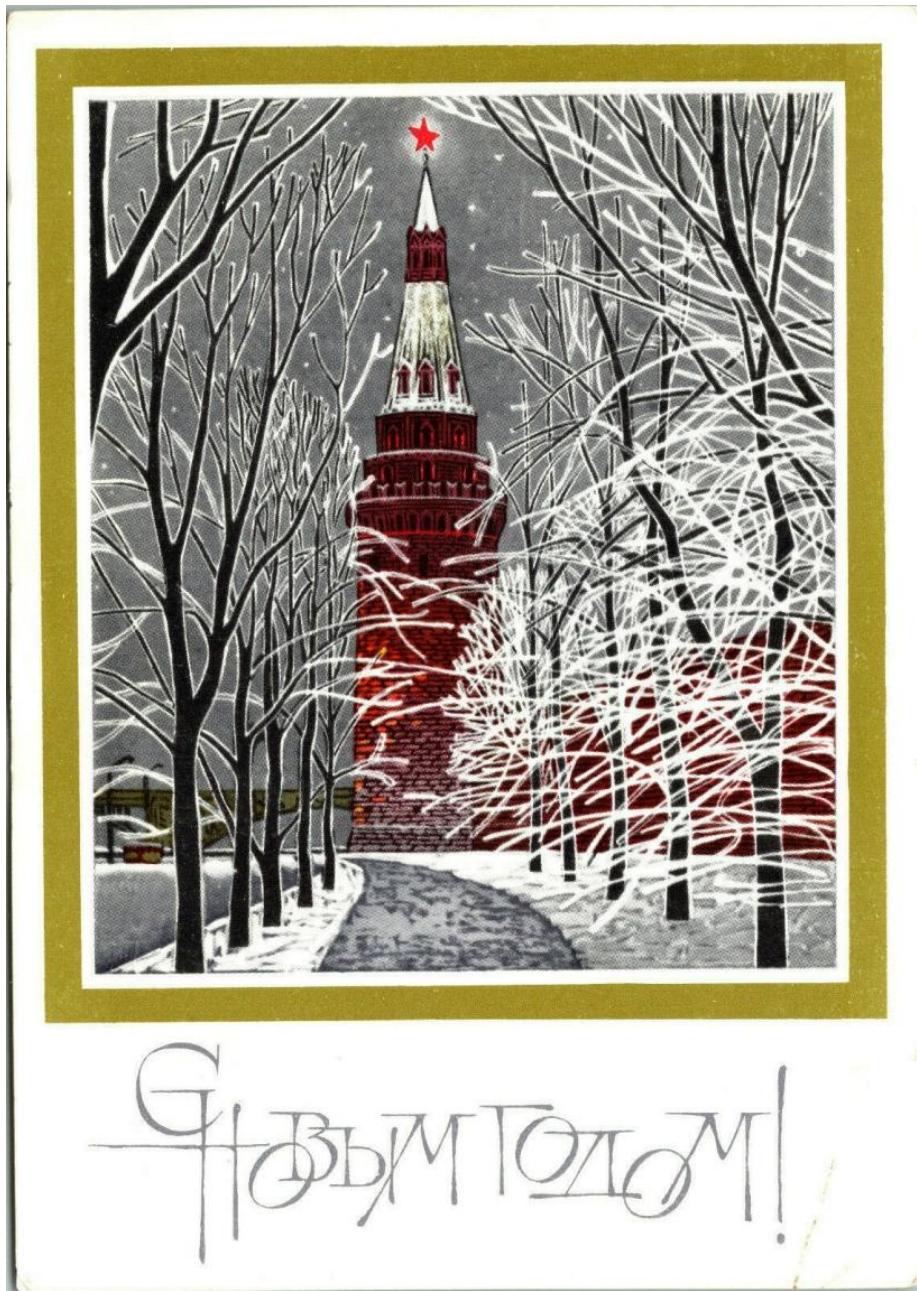
Sometimes, the most unusual holiday cards come from the most unlikely of places; in this case, the former Soviet Union, during the 1980s. Here are some examples. First, this New Year's card from a Russian SWL, dated 1988.



The card illustrates the cultural nature of the latter day Soviet Union in Russia. The figure riding the sled isn't Santa Claus, Saint Nicholas, or Kris Kringle, but the Russian equivalent, known as "Ded Moroz" (Дед Мороз), meaning "Grandfather Frost." Although condemned by the Bolsheviks in the 1920s, this figure of popular folklore reemerged in Russian/Soviet society in the final years of the U.S.S.R. Despite terrible repression, neither the Bolsheviks nor their Stalinist successors could quite kill off the people's popular heroes, nor could they kill their suppressed but secretly active Christian faith. On the bottom of the card, in

### **The Way We Were, continued.**

Russian script, are the words, “С Новым Годом,” (S Novym Godom) meaning “Happy New Year” (literally, “With the New Year”). That message would be included on all Russian language holiday cards during that period. Here’s another:



This “New Year’s” card (above), features a wintry scene in Moscow with the Kremlin in the background. It was sent by UA1ZAQ in 1980.

### **The Way We Were, continued.**

Here's another New Year's card, from UB5WDD in Ukraine in 1985, depicting another figure of popular folklore named "Snegurochka" (Снегурочка), meaning, "Snow Maiden."



The story of Snegurochka is an interesting one. The "Snow Maiden" was considered the granddaughter of "Grandfather Frost," helping him distribute gifts to children during Russian Christmas. In another version she is made entirely of snow. There is also another, more sinister version. In that version, she is one among a number of mythical female temptresses who brought unsuspecting men to their deaths or other misfortune. She was said to lure men deep into the frozen wilderness until they either starved or froze to death. The lesson in that version is to warn men, especially young men, to beware temptation, which could lead to tragedy, or their own destruction. Older cultures had similar folkloric figures, such as the harpies and sirens of ancient Greek and Roman mythology. The Snow Maiden myth would naturally be a common figure during the long, bitter cold Russian winters. The Snow Maiden is also immortalized by Russian composer

### **The Way We Were, continued.**

Nikolai Rimsky-Korsakov, in his *Snow Maiden Suite*, written in 1881. The “Dance of the Tumblers” is very spirited, and pure Russian in every way. You can listen to it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smYOCqFRMwE>

Here's another card from a Russian SWL, dated 1976, depicting a far less threatening, and very modern “Grandfather Frost,” on skis, no less!



I'd like to close out this little trip down memory lane with three delightful Christmas postcards, two of which have a distinct radio theme. These are American, and date from the 1920s.

**The Way We Were, continued.**



And now, here's my favorite of the lot. It isn't a "radio" card, but there's something about it that reminds me of Christmases of long ago, with all the warmth and joy of an old fashioned Christmas. It's a Christmas postcard message from Postal Telegraph, showing a snowy night, a snow covered railroad track, and telegraph poles following the path of the rails. I can almost hear "Silent Night" being sung by a group of carolers.



### **The Way We Were, continued.**

And here's an American classic to warm your heart on this chilly season, no matter which holiday you celebrate. It's *Sleigh Ride*, by Leroy Anderson, performed by the Boston Pops Orchestra, conducted by the one and only Arthur Fiedler...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R9jKyI6N9rg>

And with that,

I wish you all a Merry Christmas,  
Happy Holidays,  
and all the best in the New Year!

73 to all, and to all, a good night,

Fred KR2H

---

### **What Is It? – December, 2023**

**By: Fred Belghaus KR2H**



My, my, but here's a strange looking thing.

They were once widely used in electronic equipment of every type, including some amateur radio transmitters and receivers.

But just what is it, and what are those extra terminals for?

73,

Fred KR2H

## Around the Shack

– Hal Kennedy N4GG

### The Human Interface

This month's column is an opinion piece that begins far afield from ham radio. Eventually however, the following stories will tie back to our favorite pastime.

Let's begin with two news articles, one describing an unfortunate trend and one describing two catastrophic incidents.

The first article:

*Screen fatigue –*

*Buttons are back in these new electric vehicles.*

By Morgan Korn, writing for ABC News.

Some quotes:

"Drivers now traverse layers of screens to switch radio channels or turn on the heated seats. Digital dashboards seemingly extend for miles. Buttons and knobs are scarce -- even obsolete."

"There is growing evidence some consumers are experiencing 'screen fatigue.'"

"According to a recent J.D. Power study, built-in infotainment systems are making motorists unhappy. These systems "are a prime example of a technology not resonating with today's buyers."

"An EV is still a luxury vehicle and needs to be refined and elegant. It's not a good experience to dig through two menu layers to change the heat inside the car."

"Consumers are tired of having to do everything via the screen."

I can attest to the car-screen-fatigue problem. I had the unpleasant experience of owning a 2018 Acura MDX for three years. The dashboard had one knob – a volume control. Figuring out how to tune the AM and FM radio bands was worse than non-intuitive, it was counter-intuitive. I ran off the road once trying to do some nighttime DXing on the AM band.

Whenever I brought that car to the dealership, a young man would drive the car from where you meet your service advisor (the guy who 30 minutes later will up-sell you a cabin air filter) to the bays in the back. I would comment to the young man how much I liked the car and disliked the infotainment system. His reply: "I hear that all day, every day." Why do Acura owners tell the valet how much they dislike the car, given he can't do anything about it? It's because the frustration can become visceral.

I half-heartedly shopped at the Acura dealership for the MDX's replacement.

Me: "How's the infotainment system in these new ones?"

Salesman: "Oh yeah, they fixed that."

Note the choice of words. Acura's infotainment system hadn't been "improved" – it had been "fixed." I test drove a new one; it wasn't fixed. That cost Acura a sale. I bought a competitor's car. One that had a rational, safer human interface.

Poor human interfaces can be worse than annoying and inconvenient, they can be lethal. Here is the second story – a tragic one. I promise to get back to ham radio shortly.

Excerpts from the article *Collision Course*, Written by T. Christian Miller, Megan Rose, Robert Faturechi and Agnes Chang, for ProPublica, December 2019, regarding the USS John S. McCain (an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer of 9,000 tons):

"To guide the McCain ... relied upon a navigation system the Navy considered a triumph of technology and thrift. It featured slick black touch screens to operate the ship's wheel and propeller."

"In the early hours of August 21, 2017, the McCain was 20 miles from Singapore, navigating one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. Sanchez was on the bridge to assist in the complex maneuvers ahead. He ordered Bordeaux to take control over steering the warship while another sailor controlled its speed. The idea was to avoid distractions by having each man focus on a single task in the heavy maritime traffic."

"To check that he had control, Bordeaux tugged the ship's wheel lightly to the left. The McCain did not alter its course. Bordeaux rotated it slightly to starboard. Again, the McCain maintained its track. Bordeaux suddenly realized that the McCain was steering uncontrolled toward a cargo ship sailing the Singapore straight."

"Three minutes and 19 seconds later, the McCain collided violently with a 30,000 ton Liberian-flagged oil tanker. Ten navy sailors were killed and scores more were injured. It was the Navy's worst accident at sea in 40 years."

"The NTSB put it plainly: 'The danger of the John S McCain's touch-screen steering and thrust control system, the board found, increased the likelihood of the operator errors that led to the collision.'"

Continued on next page.

**Around the Shack, Continued**

Figure 1. Result of piloting the USS McCain with a touch screen

This was the Navy's worst accident in 40 years, but there was a similar one two months earlier.

"The US Navy reports looked into collisions involving the USS Fitzgerald in June 2017 and the USS McCain in August 2017.

The Fitzgerald collided with a container ship near the Japanese mainland in an accident that killed seven sailors. The McCain was off the coast of Singapore when it hit a container ship [not correct – it was the oil tanker Alnic MC], killing 10 of the Navy destroyer's crew."

*"Strongly implicated in the collisions were the touch screen controls introduced on the destroyers."*

Here are a few notes:

The reference to a steering wheel in the McCain incident refers to a small wheel provided for small steering corrections - the main steering was via touchscreen.

The assignment of one man to steer and another to control the throttle on board the McCain is a clear indication something was wrong on an everyday basis. Those tasks are best done by one person, not two. The statement that the job was split up to avoid distractions is antithetical. Having to communicate between two people doing that job IS a distraction.



Figure 2. Result of piloting the USS Fitzgerald with a touch screen

Why did anyone think you could pilot a ship (throttle and steering) with a touch screen? Can you replace the steering wheel and gas pedal in your car with a touch screen? No, no you can't. Tesla however may be close to trying it.

Piloting a destroyer with a touch screen is an inherently bad idea – one that should be self-evident. There's no need to look at the details to draw that conclusion, but let's. The workload 20 miles from Singapore is high but not unreasonably so. Compared to being at war? In wartime, stress levels and fatigue will be enormous compared to sailing through routine maritime traffic.

Then there is "sea state." US Navy destroyers operate in conditions up to sea state ten (20 foot seas, 50 knot wind). Sea state ten will toss a bridge crew from one wall of the bridge to the other if there isn't something to grab on to. How would anyone operate a touch screen under those conditions?

It took three years and \$220 million to repair the McCain. The Fitzgerald's repair cost \$377 million. When I saw those numbers I thought they were somehow in error, until I looked up the cost of an Arleigh Burke destroyer. They cost \$1.5 Billion. So, okay, \$220 million is "only" a 15% repair bill – "not bad."

The Navy is in the midst of replacing touch screens with conventional controls on all its destroyers. The retrofit will cost considerably more than the savings attributed to the use of touch screens.

"[I]t goes into the, in my mind, 'just because you can doesn't mean you should' category. We really made the helm control systems, specifically on the [DDG] 51 class, just overly complex, with the touch screens under glass and all this kind of stuff," said Rear Admiral Bill Galinis during a recent speech quoted by USNI News.

"When we started getting the feedback from the fleet from the Comprehensive Review effort... doing some fleet surveys and whatnot — it was really eye-opening. And it goes into the, in my mind, 'just because you can, doesn't mean you should.'"

I'm nonplussed by the last quote. Not the "just because you can, doesn't mean you should" part; I'm painfully aware of that phenomenon. It's that the user community had to be surveyed to discover steering ships with touch screens was a bad idea, and describing that finding as eye-opening!

Continued on next page.

## Around the Shack, Continued

Here is Jonathan M. Gitlin, writing for ARS Technica. He is bringing the McCain incident back to autos:

"It's a warning that the auto industry could do well to listen to. Touch screens continue to proliferate into car infotainment systems, a trend fueled by the plaudits given to Tesla for its [huge touch screens](#) as well as a general belief that CES-primed customers are asking for more and more consumer tech in their vehicles. But there's mounting evidence that touch interfaces are an *awful* idea for a driver who is supposed to be—literally—[focusing on the road ahead](#), not hunting for an icon or slider on a screen."

[This is verbatim – I did not add the emphases]

If you would like to read more, Google: "Navy gets rid of touch screens." You can read for hours.

What is it about digital interfaces in general and touch screens in particular that makes people lose their common sense? Seventeen US Navy sailors are dead because someone thought a touch screen was both a cool way to drive a ship and because a touch screen in lieu of controls was less expensive. I chose the word "cool" because it had to be due to a cult-like belief that "advanced technology" is better, or maybe it was "digital is better?" It couldn't have been the result of sound human-factors engineering followed by comprehensive testing (like it's supposed to be).

Okay, finally, back to ham radio. What's new and exciting in ham radio? *No knobs and touch screens.*

This begs the question, how important is the human interface when dealing with a piece of ham gear – let's say an HF transceiver?

Fortunately, fumbling at the controls of your radio is not serious, unlike driving off the road or ramming a 9,000 ton warship into a 30,000 ton oil tanker. But the human interface, or "ease of use" if you prefer, will affect your enjoyment. Ham radio is a hobby. Hobbies are to be enjoyed.

I had a great deal of difficulty thinking through what to write from here forward. The problem is ham radio is a diverse set of sub-hobbies, encompassing a variety of interests, brand loyalty, cost sensitivity and other considerations. It's not possible to generalize. I'm writing this month simply to urge you to consider the human interface the next time you make a buying decision.

Let's look at a summary of the myriad considerations.

As we read through these, keep in mind that most of these items involve tradeoffs. Individuals will see the value of various considerations through their own lens. Getting a given desire fulfilled may come at the expense of others foregone. There are no perfect radios. What are your needs? What are your wants? Only you know.

Considerations, in no particular order (except the last one is intentionally last):

**Where is the radio made?** Some of us want a radio made in the USA if possible. Is this a deal-breaker or just nice to have? Knowing you can't have everything, where does this consideration fall on your hierarchy of desired characteristics?

**What about performance?** Are you planning to work rare DX down in the noise level, perhaps next to strong stations, i.e. do you need high dynamic range? How important is that and all the myriad other performance characteristics?

**Cost.** What can you afford? What do you choose to afford?

**Portability.** Is this radio destined to be a base station, never moving from a large desk? Or will it be operated mobile and/or portable? Will it go to Field Day? POTA? Will it be spending time under airline seats?

**What about features?** For example, is a good spectrum display a must-have or just nice to have? If the radio will drive a high resolution display via a jack on the back, is that good enough or, maybe, is that best? What about all the other features?

**How much power would you like?** How much do you need? If you want to drive a grounded-grid amplifier you are working with a gain of ten. A 100 watt radio will get you 1,000 watts output. Is that good enough? Maybe you have an amp with a gain of 30 dB and you plan to use it most or all of the time – that only requires a few watts of drive from the transceiver. Maybe you have no amp. How much power then? There are now 200 watt transceivers to choose from. Is an extra 100 watts valuable to you?

**Appearance,** i.e., fit and finish. Important or unimportant? I heard an opinion once in defense of a poorly finished radio. The owner said, (with an edge in his voice) "I don't want a radio that looks like some hi-fi stereo." Was that an honest comment or simply defensiveness?

Continued on next page.

## Around the Shack, Continued

**Is your radio at the perceived state of the art?** Do you care? At one end of this axis are those who don't care if the radio is full of vacuum tubes as long as the performance is outstanding. Those are the operators. At the other end of the spectrum are technically minded hams who look forward to working with the latest advancements in technology. They enjoy the opportunity to learn and the challenge of getting new technology debugged and up-and-running. Unfortunately, however, some advanced technology falls into the category of "just because you can doesn't mean you should." Maybe you adhere to Rob Sherwood's receiver rankings, oblivious to or not caring that Rob states publicly and frequently that any radio in the top 30 on his list has more performance than anyone needs.

Being on top of the list comes with bragging rights for radio owners and manufacturers, but doesn't offer useable enhancements in performance. What does that mean to you?

**What about the ability to add upgrades and the necessity to add fixes?** Will you look forward to adding a sub-receiver downstream? Will you look forward to replacing an audio board with high distortion with a new one that has less distortion? Do you enjoy testing out a stream of firmware updates? Or maybe you prefer to spend your time operating and want a radio that's excellent as-delivered. This goes for software as well. Are you eagerly awaiting the next release of Ham Radio Deluxe or are you dreading it?

**How about integration challenges?** Do you look forward to station building or just want to get on the air? Are your technical skills minimal such that "plug and play" is important to you?

**How about your new radio's learning curve?** Do you look forward to a steep/long learning curve? Some people do. Or maybe you want to get on the air in under an hour without opening the manual. Where will the radio reside? If it's going to a clubhouse, will a steep learning curve scare club members away? Or will such a radio contain enough new technology to attract a younger crowd?

**What about reliability and service?** Will this radio break often? How's the service department's reputation? Turn-around time? Willingness to pay shipping? Do you know these things from personal experience or from hearsay? Could you conceivably fix

it yourself? If you built the radio from a kit, then maybe so.

Etcetera. This list is not exhaustive although it may have been exhausting to read.

Last and often receiving the least attention is the **quality of the human interface**. There is inattention to this on both sides of the purchase transaction. Buyers often overlook 'ease of use.' Radio designers often save it for last, or don't care, or run out of budget before 'ease of use' receives proper treatment. I've managed many EEs and many designs. High dynamic range low-noise quad-balanced mixers are sexy to EEs, while 'which button does what' isn't. Meanwhile, the user will spend no time operating the mixer and all of his time pushing the buttons.

**Is the radio hard to operate?** Even the human interface on poorly thought-out radios can be learned over time. Human factors engineers (yes, there is such a discipline) call this "mastery learning" or "automaticity." Even when mastered however, some radios are needlessly difficult to operate, forever, and therefore less fun.

Radios with poorly implemented human interfaces come with many drawbacks. They are hard to master and easy to forget. If you put the radio on the shelf for two years, you can count on learning it all over again. If you operate for long stretches, interface complexity causes fatigue.

Poorly thought-out radios are anathema to visitors. A visitor to your shack will not be able to operate the radio(s). Someone sitting down in front of your radio at Field Day will have the same problem. Field Day exists to demonstrate preparedness. Inscrutable radios don't square with that objective. If a high learning-curve radio is in a club station, how many members will visit? To have attendance, the zeal for advanced technology will have to outweigh the desire to get on the air.

A trend in ham radio is toward smaller radios and more features. That's fine although, personally, I don't understand putting a small radio on a large desk in a base station. What could be the advantage?

Smaller radios have smaller front panels with less room for knobs, switches and buttons. This requires functions be placed within menus. That's justifiable by virtue of necessity.

Continued on page 44.

## FLORIDA HAMS MAKE CONTACT 100 MILES APART VIA 10-METER REPEATER... IN SWITZERLAND

When 10 meters is open, amazing things can happen. Lu Romero, W4LT, knows that well. He said, "When 10 is open, I often venture up into the top of the band to see if there is any FM activity. I've always liked to use 10 FM, especially when conditions are marginal, to observe the Faraday phase distortion on signals. Before FT8, 10 FM was always a good way to discover where the band was propagating to in addition to the beacons. If you hear FM (especially repeaters) operating, then the propagation is really good!"

At around 1500z on October 23, 2023, the band was open. Romero stated that he went to the top of the band and "found multiple signals in both simplex and via repeaters."

"Usually, I receive a repeater in New York City, KQ2H, one of the strongest signals I can get down here in Florida when 10 is open, but today there was another strong signal 10 kHz above it," he said.

Using a FLEX-6400 at 75 W and the C32XR beam at 108 feet that he maintains for the Tampa Amateur Radio Club <<https://hamclub.org/wp/>>, he heard an ID through the splatter from the KQ2H repeater. "It was HB9HD in Switzerland <<https://www.hb9hd.ch/>>!"

I set up for split & gave the repeater a kerchunk."

Romero was able to contact a Swiss ham, Rene HB3XVR, through the repeater and its 70-centimeter link.

Then, on October 31, again around 1500z, Romero tried the repeater once more. "I found the repeater full quieting, even stronger than it was on October 23, and with no QRM from KQ2H, so it was clean and easy to copy!"

For the heck of it, I called CQ several times on the repeater. I received no callers; but finally, I received a signal that was fading up and down. I called again and that signal stopped fading for a while, and I was able to work David WA3LXD via the HB9HD repeater.

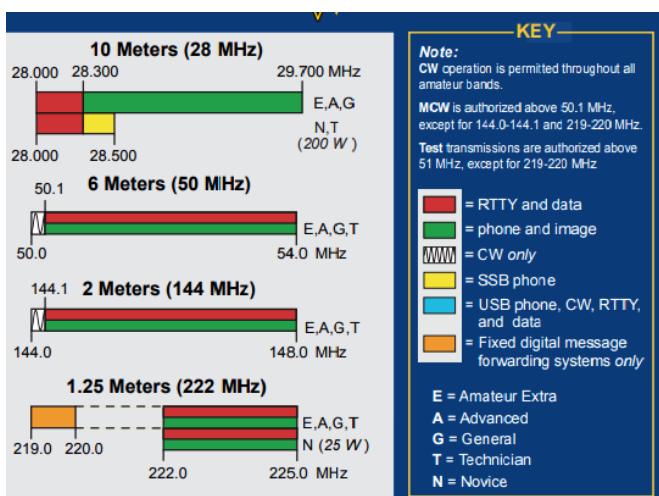
After a little while, his signal settled down and David asked me what my QTH was and I told him I was in Tampa. He laughed and said we worked each other '*the hard way*,' because he was in Ocala, about 100 miles to my north," said Romero.

As Solar Cycle 25 continues to rise toward its peak, amateurs can expect to encounter more exciting propagation, especially on the 10- and 6-meter bands. In this case, the signals traveled roughly 9,800 miles round trip. Your mileage may vary.

### A REMINDER to our Technician class members —

Not only are you authorized to use all modes — including voice and FT8 — on the entire 6 meter band, but you are also allowed to use SSB voice on 10 meters from 28.300 up to 28.500 MHz and also digital and data modes from 28.000 up to 28.300 MHz — so if you can find a ten meter rig you can have DX fun even with your Technician ticket.

— Extracted from ARRL Letter, November 22, 2023



## A QSL card is the final courtesy of an amateur radio contact.

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL\\_card](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/QSL_card)

## Theoretics Demystified

The subject this time is MODULATION. Modulation is varying a CARRIER, which is a steady RF signal, by adding information which itself changes the carrier according to the information impressed upon it.

An exception to a continuous carrier being modified is when sending Morse Code. In this case when the code key is depressed the carrier is turned on, when the key is released, the carrier is off – varying with the characters being sent. At the receiving end the receiver has a local oscillator which is mixed with the received signal to produce an audio signal that the operator can hear. It is called CW since a Continuous Wave signal is what is switched on and off to produce the Morse Code characters.

In the very beginning of radio transmissions there were transmitters that used SPARK generators [basically a buzzer with a step-up coil] to produce the on/off signals used for code.

The earliest type of non-code modulation is Amplitude Modulation, known as AM, which varies the amplitude [strength] of the carrier to match the fluctuations of the signal information that is to be transmitted. A resulting effect is that the information mixes with the carrier frequency and produces SIDEBANDS which are the sum and difference of the signal mixing with the carrier frequency.

If there is a carrier at 10,000 cycles per second and information and a signal at 500 cycles per second, the there will be an upper side band from 10,000 cycles to 10,500 cycles per second and a lower side band from 9,500 cycles per second to 10,000 cycles per second.

The information being transmitted with the carrier, the RF is detected using a rectifier, a diode of some type, reproducing the information that was added to the carrier at the transmitter. The problem with AM is that it is susceptible to interference from any source of static such as lightning, car ignition, etc.

With the interference problems with AM, a solution was sought so Frequency Modulation known as FM was invented. With FM the information causes the carrier to vary its frequency in accordance with the information being transmitted. The carrier with no information is steady at the selected frequency. When information is added to the carrier, the information causes the carrier to move up and down

in frequency. This is called deviation. The deviation is dependent upon the band width of the transmitted information.

A benefit of FM is that other information besides voice or music can be transmitted along with the audible information. Those extra signals are above the range of hearing. One type of signal is the one that makes stereo FM possible. The receiver is designed to detect the variations in frequency and thereby reproduce the transmitted signals.

Differences:

AM has noise problems but requires little bandwidth.

FM is immune to noise, can transmit stereo music but requires a large bandwidth.

Continued next month!

Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

### HAMSPEAK —

#### SIMPLE DEFINITIONS OF HAM RELATED TERMS

**DIODE:** a device that lets electrical current flow in only one direction. Diodes can be vacuum tubes or solid-state devices.

**CAPACITOR:** a component that stores electrical energy using an electrical field. It is composed of two plates separated by a non-conducting barrier called a dielectric. Modern capacitor plates are made of foil with the dielectric of paper or mylar, rolled up to form the familiar round capacitor shape. The capacitor's 'capacity' is measured in Farads [named after Michael Faraday].

**INDUCTOR:** a coil of wire wound so that it resists or passes the alternating flow of electrons at a specific frequency, dependent on its design. Inductors can be in a spring like form or the familiar coil like form as in a relay or buzzer. The unit of measurement for inductors is the Henry, named after Joseph Henry.

**RESISTOR:** a component that is designed to impede or resist the flow of electrons. Resistors can be made using carbon, wire or another resistive material. Resistors range in size from microscopic to gigantic - so they are rated in fractions of a watt to hundreds of watts. Resistors dissipate the resistive energy as heat. The unit of measurement of resistors is the Ohm, named after German physicist Georg Simon Ohm.

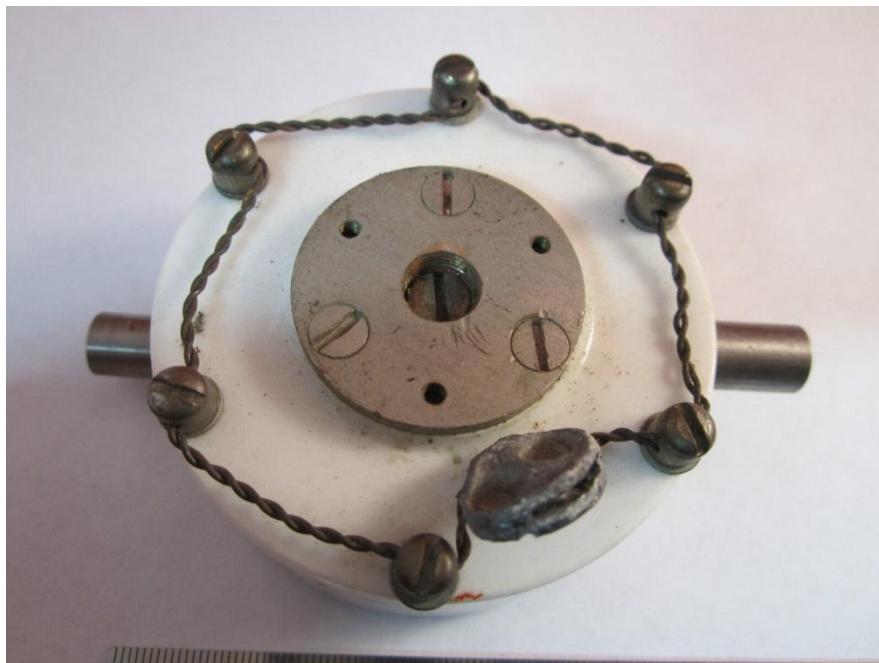
**COAXIAL CABLE:** or COAX, as it is commonly known, is a cable where the conductor is inside a tubular shield and is separated by a non-conducting dielectric.

— Fred Wawra, W2ABE, 73.

Copyright material used with implicit permission of the author.

**What Was It? – Answer To Last Month's Question**

**By: Fred Belghaus KR2H**



This one was pretty easy, provided you are of "a certain age." But only one reply was received, and the winner's circle belongs to Alan, WB2HJZ.

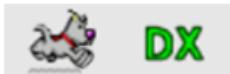
It's a quartz crystal, from the days when transmitter frequency was determined by one of these, or smaller units. This one would have been used in a high power transmitter, most likely a KW rig or in the exciter stage of an AM broadcasting station's transmitter. It was probably made in the early to mid 1930s.

The wire and lead seal were added to prevent tampering; another detail that suggests that it was used by a broadcasting station, where frequency assignments and tolerances are critical, and strictly regulated by FCC rules.

73,

Fred KR2H

## DX Special Interest Group Update



From our Slack DX channel —

James KB2FMH wrote:

In the future there is likely to be a DXpedition to Vanuatu, YJ land, which will include POTA activation on Efate Island, IOTA OC-035. I hope to be there myself.

If anyone is interested, there are some ops still needed on the team, any mode.

It will span the CQWW SSB contest Oct 26 / 27, 2024.

Hard dates are 10/16 to 10/30 on the island. Travel includes a stopover / team gathering in Honolulu for the connecting direct flight.

It's a great opportunity to get the feet wet on a comfortable expedition rather than tents and generators in harsh conditions..

Jim W2JC wrote:

I think you have found your 'niche' in life!

KB2FMH: It's fun for me Jim, and it gets me out of the house to cool locations.

When I first joined this game almost 40 years ago I was hooked on DX - the sound of far away voices was fascinating and hearing my call spoken by someone very distant, and with a strange accent, was the thrill that hooked me. I was doing it on AM back then with a KWS-1 / 75A-4 and the sound of that just hooked me. Now I get to do it for others.

I credit POTA for enabling me to work the other side of pileups, from having them at every POTA activation. When out with seasoned DXpeditioners, they wonder at how I can tear through calls without always working split - I say POTA ops have simplex pileups all the time, sometimes every day, while even the most experienced DXpedition operator gets them a few times a year at most – and thus we POTA people are sought after once discovered, so to speak.

I do wish some FLARC members would join me in this Niche, as you say; it's really a lot of fun and we make a great many people happy around the world, which is the essence of why we do it. It's estimated that the cost to each volunteer will be approximately \$5000.

If you think you might be interested in being a op on the DXpedition, contact James KB2FMH at —

KB2FMH @ gmail.com

## Around the Shack, Continued

Going to smaller radios and more features greatly increases the value of good human factors design.

*The smaller the radio, the more the human interface has to be optimized. The opposite is often what happens.*

A few conclusions:

A given radio's human interface may or may not be important to you. It is important if you operate a lot. If you prefer challenging yourself to master new technology it may not be.

Touch screens are fine if used judiciously. So are trackballs and mice. Small radios can't have a knob for everything, so touch screens, mice and trackballs are in order.

Your enjoyment (what it's all about) may suffer, long term, from a less than optimized human interface. After you learn the radio, you will be happy or stuck with whatever you wound up with.

In my humble opinion, consideration of a radio's human interface should be a part of every buying decision.

73,

Hal N4GG

Postscript: Many radios are bought without consideration of anything mentioned above. They are bought on the basis of "everyone says it's a great radio."

Here's a true story: In the 1990s and 2000s the FT1000MP was considered a gold standard radio, particularly among contesters. I know a competitor who bought two because everyone said they were great. A week later he was voicing disappointment that the radios didn't include six meters. He blamed "everyone" who said it was a great radio rather than his lack of due diligence. Don't do this!

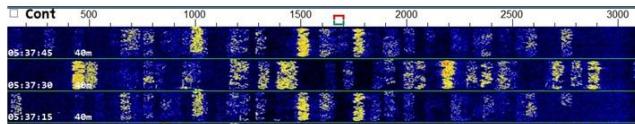


## FT8 & Digital Data Modes

### Special Interest Group Update

FT8@FairLawnARC.groups.io

A Special Interest Group SIG for those interested in FT8 and FT4 digital communications and software.



What are those weird call signs and oddball grid squares that show up in the decode now and then?

We (the FLARC FT8 gang on the Slack channel) have been seeing this a lot lately because there is a station using a “complex” call sign – P4/WE9V on FT8. Since the available data bits to code FT8 are very limited, such calls have to be shrunk somehow. The way it is done is with what is called a “hashcode.” How that is done is too complex to cover here, but the weak part of that technique is that more than one call sign can have the same “hashcode value.” In the current example, P4/WE9V was being “decoded” by FT8 as BA7LUI – which is a call sign from China. Lots of ops who don’t understand the hashcode concept thought they were really seeing DX! Our very own David K2DBK did some detective work and learned how the hashcode is calculated:

It is definitely a hash collision. I grabbed and compiled a Fortran program written by the dev team. The 10-bit hash codes for those two callsigns match. Normally a 22-bit code is used which has a much lower chance of a collision, but for special callsigns (like P4/WE9V) it has to use the shorter hashes.

```
david@onett2(0.25):~/src/misc$ ./hashcodes P4/WE9V
Callsign      h10      h12      h22
-----
P4/WE9V      1006      4026  4123596
Biased for storage in c28: 6187188
david@onett2(0.36):~/src/misc$ ./hashcodes BA7LUI
Callsign      h10      h12      h22
-----
BA7LUI      1006      4024  4120942
Biased for storage in c28: 6184534
```

Look at the values under h10, they are both 1006.

This is only going to happen if you’ve decoded both calls at least once (pretty sure, and I don’t feel like reading the source code for more details).

So there is nothing P4/WE9V can do to prevent this from happening – it happens in the software, as a

of the constraint on how many bits of digital data can be sent each cycle. Even more confusing to ops who don’t know about this is that the next day, the hashcode was being decoded as TS7KQJ/P – which turns out to have the same 1006 value as the other two call signs!

| Band Activity    |     |      |      |                        |
|------------------|-----|------|------|------------------------|
| UTC              | dB  | DT   | Freq | Message                |
| 034130           | -14 | -0.0 | 1911 | ~ N2KI KK4BZ 73        |
| 034130           | -16 | -0.1 | 1605 | ~ K0TT KA1ERL R-14     |
| 034130           | -15 | 1.0  | 1273 | ~ W4DWS WA1OJN FN32    |
| ----- 160m ----- |     |      |      |                        |
| 034145           | -9  | -0.1 | 1809 | ~ W7YA KC1BUF FN43     |
| 034145           | 8   | 0.0  | 999  | ~ TS7KQJ/P NQ1K FN31   |
| 034145           | 24  | -0.1 | 2574 | ~ TS7KQJ/P N2ZX -07    |
| 034145           | -2  | 0.2  | 1586 | ~ CQ N2KI FN21 U.S.A.  |
| 034145           | -18 | -0.1 | 1499 | ~ <P4/WE9V> AB8MO EN91 |
| 034145           | -15 | -0.0 | 1979 | ~ TS7KQJ/P W8EH EM79   |
| 034145           | -18 | -0.1 | 2104 | ~ KA1ERL K0TT RR73     |
| 034145           | -17 | -0.1 | 1595 | ~ TS7KQJ/P WA9JWL EN70 |
| 034145           | -15 | -0.3 | 847  | ~ CQ AD8IF EN72 U.S.A. |
| 034145           | -20 | -0.0 | 1156 | ~ <P4/WE9V> W3FAY FM18 |

Here is an example from a decode this evening. You can see that some people are calling with the correct call sign <P4/WE9V> [the < > brackets are how WSJT-X shows this is a ‘hashed’ callsign] and others are calling the ‘fake’ call sign TS7KQJ/P ...

DXpeditions are popping up all around the world these days, especially in countries and “entities” that are rare and wanted. Most of them have FT8 / FT4 activity; some go very heavily for the digital because they can detect weak callers and they can maintain a steady flow of QSOs for long time periods.

The original WSJT-X by Joe Taylor and his brilliant team offered a very clever operating strategy called “Fox and Hound” for such DX and high-demand operations. But there were some constraints on procedure, and nobody likes constraints! So another team took the “open source” software code of WSJT-X and made quite a few modifications – many to bypass those constraints. The most popular one for recent DXpeditions seems to be MSHV. I don’t know for sure what the letters stand for, but I’ll guess “Multi Stream High Volume” ... because that is what they accomplished. The DX station can send up to FIVE ‘streams’ or channels at the same time, each cycle, and each stream can RR73 on station and acknowledge another station at the same time. Of course, the more streams the LESS POWER in each stream – and you can see the signal strength go down as more channels are added. Also, you don’t have to call the DX “above 1000” on the waterfall with MSHV. It’s very popular.

— Jim W2JC



## FLARC PortableOps SIG

PortableOps@FairLawnARC.groups.io

This is a Special Interest Group (SIG) for members interested in portable ham radio operation such as POTA, SOTA, IOTA, LOTA, etc. The purpose of this SIG is to get outdoors and practice our operating skills from different places. We can share outing experiences, tips and work on our operating skills.

Last month my wife had a work conference in Park City Utah, so I decided to tag along and of course bring my radio gear. While in Park City I did a SOTA activation on Quarry Mountain [W7U/NU-067] which is a 6-point summit at 7417 ft in elevation. This was a particularly special activation because I brought my daughter on her first SOTA activation!

After Park City, we drove down to southern Utah and stayed in the town of Moab — home of Arches National Park.

Unfortunately I couldn't activate Arches, but I was able to do a POTA activation at K-5794 Colorado River BLM Recreation area. The scenery was truly stunning.



I made 23 QSOs including the famous WI2W!! I also activated Canyonlands National Park K-0010 — my first National Park activation.



After Moab we drove into Colorado and stayed in the historic town of Durango. I was able to do a double POTA/SOTA activation at Smelter Mountain [WOC/SJ-167], a 1 point summit 7417 ft in elevation and K-9620 Bodo State Wildlife Area.



Smelter Mtn. – my setup



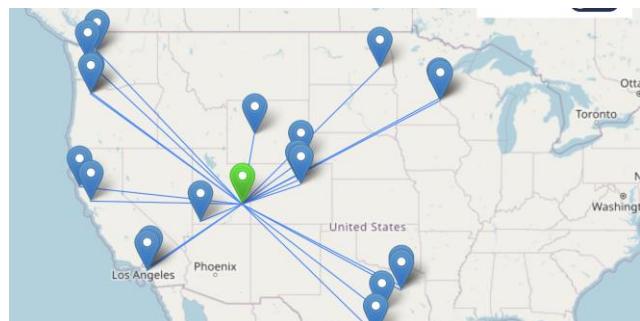
My EFHW antenna on Smelter Mtn.

All of my equipment worked well. I used the Icom 705, KM4ACK efhw (end fed half wave) antenna and a Bioenno 3Ah battery.

I mostly operated QRP but also tried out the 45 watt MX-P50M QRP HF amplifier, which works awesome. Thanks, Steve WI2W !

Overall, a pretty epic trip. I highly recommend visiting this area of the country if you ever get the chance. There are tons of POTA parks and many SOTA Summits – a lot of them unactivated. 73!!

— KD2YEW



Utah map of my QSOs

## Contest Corner

– Van W2DLT



### WFD Winter Field Day update

Mike Volpe KD2YEW and I met with Al Evangelista KB2EKC and Deborah Ross, who represent the Pompton Lakes OEM/CERT team.

They will be guests at our Winter Field site this year along with a few other members of their team, some who are licensed hams.

They will be bringing their field communications van for us to use – which will give us shelter, light, heat and fuel for the built in generator, so let's welcome them by showing them some FLARC hospitality.



We will be setting up our HF stations in their van and we'll show some of their operators the basic skills of how to put a station together in the field and operating protocol for the WFD event.

We're looking forward to a great WFD 2024!

Thank you Mike KD2YEW for setting this up for us.

**Winter Field Day 2024**  
**January 27 & 28, 2024**  
**Memorial Park**  
**Fair Lawn, NJ**

Main web page —

<https://winterfieldday.org/index.php>

Rules —

<https://winterfieldday.org/rules.php>

Noel Pagan  
W2MSA

### Saturday & Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> • Ten Meter Contest

Objective:

For Amateurs worldwide to exchange QSO information with as many stations as possible on the 10 meter band.

Dates: Second full weekend of December. Starts 0000 UTC Saturday; runs through 2359 UTC Sunday (December 9-10, 2023)

### FLARC operation will be 0900 – 1700 ET on SATURDAY and SUNDAY.

Ten meters is usually rather dead at night, so doing Saturday from 8pm thru the night would be dull !!

Awards:

Certificates will be awarded in the following categories:

The highest-scoring single-operator station (in each category) from each ARRL/RAC Section, Mexican State and DXCC country.

Top multioperator entries in each ARRL Division, Canada, Mexico and each continent.

Additional certificates will be awarded as participation warrants.

If you want to read the rules before the contest:

<https://contests.arrl.org/ContestRules/10M-Rules.pdf>

This contest is for both Voice/SSB and CW, so everyone can have fun at the club.

With the current increase in sunspot activity, the DX (distance) stations on ten meters have covered the entire world – so you may well talk to some rare countries during this contest. And the club might add some “wanted countries” to our DXCC award rank.

**TECHNICAN MEMBERS:** Remember that you have authorization, with your license class, to operate in a small section at the lower end of ten meters at any time — so here is a good chance for you to see what that HF band is like. (You can even operate FT8 on 10 meters, but not in this contest).



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mr86hCRugSQ>



For FLARC membership info and renewal/application form please visit:  
[membership.FairLawnARC.org](http://membership.FairLawnARC.org)

## FLARC Dues, new and renewal, (and even donations!) can now be made on-line ...

[Please note that this is a temporary improvement while Dave KD2JIP works on a real, full-fledged web page for filling out the membership/renewal form and submitting that and payment on-line.]

Payments can be made using either PayPal or Zelle.

Here's how –

### Using PayPal —

Log into your PayPal account at

<https://www.paypal.com>

At top right, select "My PayPal"

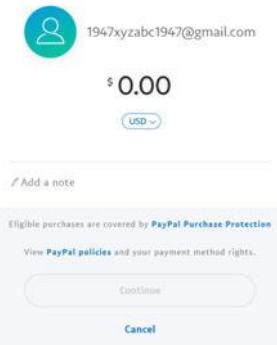
Under Quick links, select "Send Money"

In the window showing  
Name, email or mobile number  
enter this email address:

[1947xyzabc1947@gmail.com](mailto:1947xyzabc1947@gmail.com)

Click on [ Next ]

Enter \$ amount you  
are sending, & in  
"add a note" area  
type in your CALL  
SIGN and which  
year  
the dues are for, &  
any other  
explanation.



Click on [ Continue ]

Click on the [ Change ] button

Click on "Sending to a friend" link



**Sending to a friend**

No fee to use bank or balance to send to  
friends and family in the U.S.

You will see a summary of your transaction;  
if no changes are required, click on

[ Send Payment Now ]

to complete your transaction.

\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$\$

### Using Zelle —

If you are using Zelle through your bank  
account, just send your dues to the following  
number: 201-240-9317

Don't forget to add in the note/message  
section your callsign and that it is for your dues.

CONTINUED IN NEXT COLUMN —>



Complete this form for NEW or RENEWAL ARRL membership and give to FLARC Treasurer [David Gotlib KD2MOB] with your payment check.



## ARRL Affiliated Club Membership Application

**I am a brand-new member**, or my membership lapsed for 2 or more years. My club will receive a \$15 commission.

**I am renewing** (includes lapsed members of less than 2 years). My club will receive a \$5.00 commission.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Call Sign \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_

**My Family Member is Joining or Renewing: (Annually \$10 per member)**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

### Your Annual Membership Dues -

Circle Your Choice

|                                 | 3 Years | 2 Years | 1 Year |
|---------------------------------|---------|---------|--------|
| US Membership                   | \$140   | \$95    | \$49   |
| International (Digital Only)    | \$140   | \$95    | \$49   |
| International (with mailed QST) | \$217   | \$147   | \$76   |
| Blind                           | \$30    | \$20    | \$10   |
| Family                          | \$30    | \$20    | \$10   |
| Student                         |         |         | \$25   |

TOTAL \$

### Choose your print magazine -

Check One

**QST**, ARRL's membership journal for active radio amateurs (12 monthly issues)

**On the Air**, Beginner-to-intermediate-level help and advice (6 bimonthly issues)

**Digital Only** (All members can access the digital versions of both magazines)

### Payment

Enclosed is my:  Check  Money Order  Charge Request

Charge to my:  Visa  Mastercard  Amex  Discover

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holders Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Toll Free (US) 1-888-277-5289 or 860-594-0200 • ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111-1400  
[membership@arrl.org](mailto:membership@arrl.org) • [www.arrl.org/join](http://www.arrl.org/join)

## December 2023

### FLARC Business Meeting

#### FAIR LAWN AMATEUR RADIO CLUB

#### MINUTES ANNUAL MEETING

Fair Lawn Senior Center

December 1, 2023

The Club's President Lee KD2DRS called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

At his request the members present in person rose and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The President then asked the Club Treasurer KD2MOB to call the roll.

The Treasurer called the following, each of whom responded as "present":

|            |        |                 |
|------------|--------|-----------------|
| President, | Lee    | KD2DRS          |
| Treasurer, | Dave   | KD2MOB          |
| Secretary, | Jim    | W2KNG (by Zoom) |
| Trustee,   | Fred   | W2ABE           |
| Trustee,   | Brian  | KD2KLN, and     |
| Trustee,   | Judith | KC2LTM          |

The Treasurer confirmed to the President that a quorum existed in order for the meeting to proceed and business to be conducted.

The President then reported on the auction held November 24. The auction was a success.

The President thanked many of the members who gave invaluable assistance without which the auction would not have been the success it was. In particular the President thanked the two Co-Chairs, Gene WO2W and Bill WA2WL.

Gene WO2W reported that there were 52 buyers, 27 sellers and the Club raised \$1,130 out of which \$626 was from Club property and about \$200 profit from the refreshment stand. Gene thanked several members for all their help.

The President then thanked all those who worked on cleaning up the Club, especially Fred W2ABE. The Club is looking clean and neat.

The President then asked Judith KC2LTM to circulate ballots for President, the only contested election. Judith told the meeting that the election would be held by secret ballot, so each member present should mark a ballot but not identify himself or herself. Members on Zoom should send a private chat to the President. Once all the ballots are cast, Judith, Brian KD2KLN and Fred W2ABE will move to another room and count the ballots.

When this was completed Judith returned and announced that Fred KR2H had been elected President of the Club to serve until the next Annual Meeting. This was followed by applause from the members.

Fred then made some remarks, thanking the members and making the point that this was everyone's Club and any member who had a suggestion, issue or comment should always feel free to contact Fred.

**December 2023****FLARC Business Meeting, cont'd.**

Finally, as a procedural matter, the Secretary of the Club, Jim W2KNG, made a motion to elect the following members unanimously as there had been no contested election:

|                  |        |        |
|------------------|--------|--------|
| Vice President : | Robert | KD2SOG |
| Treasurer :      | Gene   | WO2W   |
| Secretary :      | Jim    | W2KNG  |
| Trustee :        | Van    | W2DLT  |

The motion was seconded by Judith and the motion carried unanimously.

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted

James P. Jalil W2KNG, Secretary

## OFFICERS 2024

ByLaws, Section 4.1 Designation of Officers  
The Officers of the Association shall be a President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary. The President, Vice President, Treasurer and Secretary shall be elected annually by the membership and shall hold office until their successors shall have been elected.

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| President - | Fred Belghaus, KR2H |
|-------------|---------------------|

|                  |                         |
|------------------|-------------------------|
| Vice-president - | Robert Marchini, KD2SOG |
|------------------|-------------------------|

|             |                        |
|-------------|------------------------|
| Treasurer - | Gene Ottenheimer, WO2W |
|-------------|------------------------|

|             |                 |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Secretary - | Jim Jalil W2KNG |
|-------------|-----------------|

|  |                                                       |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Brian Cirulnick, KD2KLN<br>[Term runs to end of 2024] |
|--|-------------------------------------------------------|

|            |                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| Trustees - | Judith Shaw, KC2LTM<br>[Term runs to end of 2025] |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------|

|  |                                                      |
|--|------------------------------------------------------|
|  | Lowell VantSlot, W2DLT<br>[Term runs to end of 2026] |
|--|------------------------------------------------------|

Activate Win  
Go to Settings to